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HISTORY

REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 22 // NOVEMBER 2015 // £4.50



GUY FAWKES

Freedom fighter or terrorist?

Henry V's legendary medieval triumph

AGINCOURT

How the king's archers
destroyed the French in 1415

NAZIS IN THE DOCK

The Nuremberg trials

PLUS

THE BOY WHO INVENTED RUGBY
MASSACRE IN MANCHESTER
**JFK, LEE HARVEY OSWALD
AND JACK RUBY**
NEOLITHIC SCOTLAND



SUFFRAGETTES

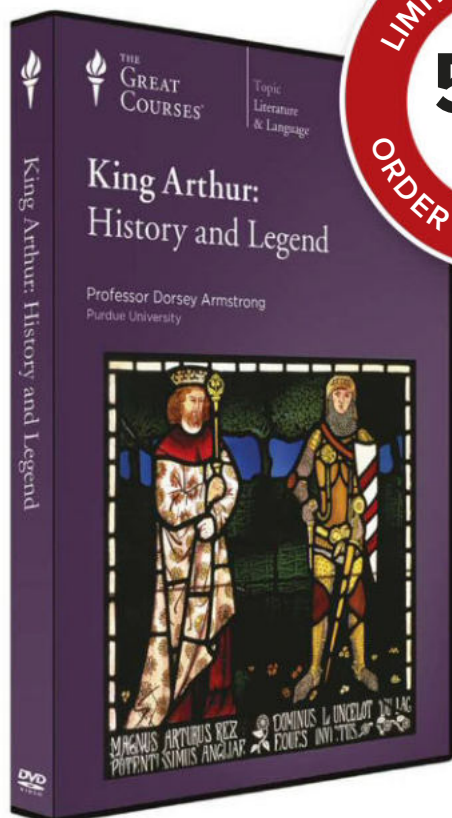
Votes for women,
whatever the cost

ROME'S GLORY

Behind the scenes
at the Colosseum

THE IMPOSTER WHO ROCKED THE TUDORS





Why Does King Arthur Still Enchant Us Today?

For over 1,500 years, the saga of King Arthur and his court has enthralled writers, artists, and an ever-growing global audience—and even now, each year sees thousands of new versions of the story appear across diverse media, from novels to theatre to visual arts.

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11. King Arthur's Other German Adaptations
12. The Arthurian Sagas of Scandinavia
13. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
14. The Alliterative *Morte Arthure*
15. Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*
16. Enriching the Legend—Tristan and Isolde
17. The Holy Grail from Chrétien to Dan Brown
18. Arthuriana in Medieval Art
19. Spenser, Milton, and the Renaissance Arthur
20. *Idylls of the King*—The Victorian Arthur
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Welcome



As World War II built to its climax, **Winston Churchill** sought every possible advantage. Facing the final hurdle that would be the D-Day invasion of Normandy, he **turned to Shakespeare's Henry V**, instructing Laurence Olivier to produce a

morale-boosting piece of propaganda to give the Allies the confidence to go '**once more unto the breach**'. The medieval King's triumph over the French has long been a by-word for victory against the odds, but what really happened on that muddy field 600 years ago? The story unfolds from page 26.

History is full of stories of those prepared to fight for what they believe. How we see them today is a point of view, of course. While few would argue with the **Suffragettes who suffered beatings, humiliations and even death** for women's right to vote (p49), opinion is more divided when it comes to Guy Fawkes (p57). Many consider him **England's most notorious terrorist**, yet others adopt his image as **an icon of protest**. Either way, his story is worth a deeper delve as Bonfire Night approaches.



More medieval mayhem than you can wield a sword at will commemorate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt on 25 October

Controversy also surrounds **the Nuremberg trials** (p62), with some suggesting that the Nazis weren't the only ones **guilty of war crimes** during World War II. It's a gripping story – as is that of arguably **the greatest traveller of all time**, Ibn Battuta (p70), who wandered for almost 30 years.

Keep your emails and letters coming – enjoy the issue!

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our December issue, on sale 12 November

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THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

4

The number of daughters philosopher Karl Marx had named Jenny. See page 98.

87

The age of Soviet spy Melita Norwood when her covert actions were uncovered, much to the surprise of her neighbours in south-east London. See page 78.

36

How many barrels of gunpowder Guy Fawkes smuggled under Parliament. See page 59.

ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



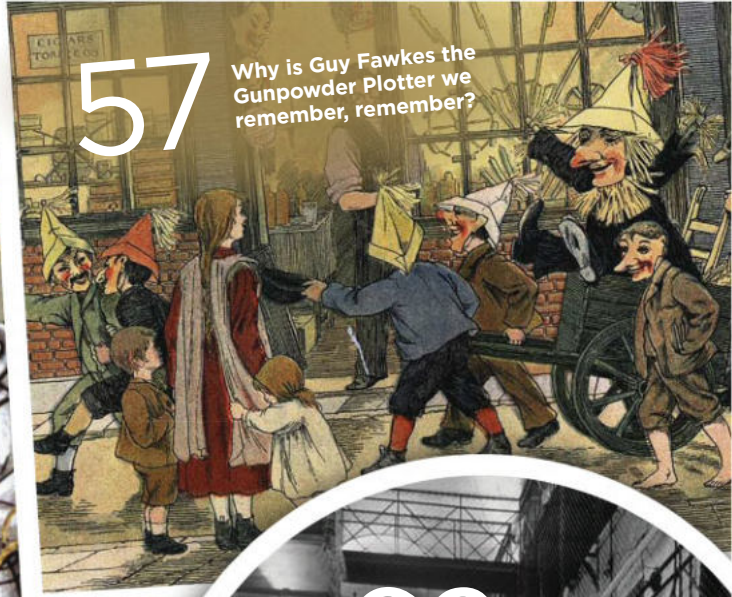


26 AGINCOURT

England's medieval
victory that made
Henry V a national hero

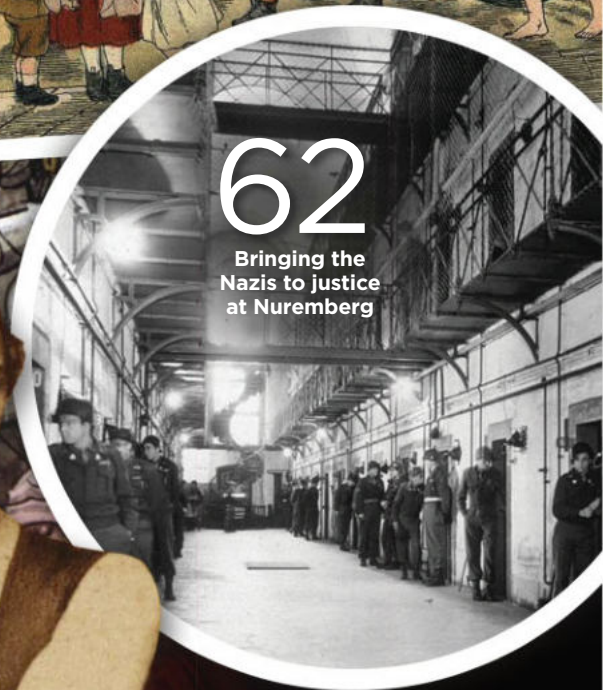
57

Why is Guy Fawkes the
Gunpowder Plotter we
remember, remember?



62

Bringing the
Nazis to justice
at Nuremberg



14

Jules Leotard's
skin-tight suit
stuns spectators

TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...

Snapshots

Take a look at the big picturep8

I Read the News Today

Weird and wonderful of Novemberp14

COVER STORY Yesterday's Papers

JFK's killer gunned downp16

Graphic History

Behind the doors of the Royal Society...p18

What Happened Next...

William Webb Ellis 'invents' rugby.....p20

COVER STORY The Extraordinary Tale of...

Doomed pretender, Perkin Warbeck..p22

THE BIG STORY

COVER STORY THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

Remembering a legendary medieval
clash and king, 600 years on.....p26

Need to Know

In a century of conflict, Agincourt was
medieval England's greatest victory....p28

Timeline

Trace the major events in Henry V's
life that brought him to Agincourt.....p38

The Battle

How an outnumbered and tired English
army achieved an unlikely triumph.....p41

Get Hooked

Continue your journey to Agincourt..p46

FEATURES

DIGGING INTO HISTORY

COVER STORY In Pictures: Suffragettes

When extreme deeds were needed...p49

History Makers: Guy Fawkes

How the Gunpowder Plot almost changed
the course of history.....p57

COVER STORY Revealed: the Nuremberg Trials

Nazis go on trial.....p62

COVER STORY Great Adventures: the travels of Ibn Battuta

The Moroccan globetrotter who
delved into the unknown world.....p70

COVER STORY Top 10: Spies in history

The men and women who could teach
James Bond a thing or two.....p76



76

Spies, sex and secrets:
history's real-life 007s



49

The women who
fought their
way to the
polling booth

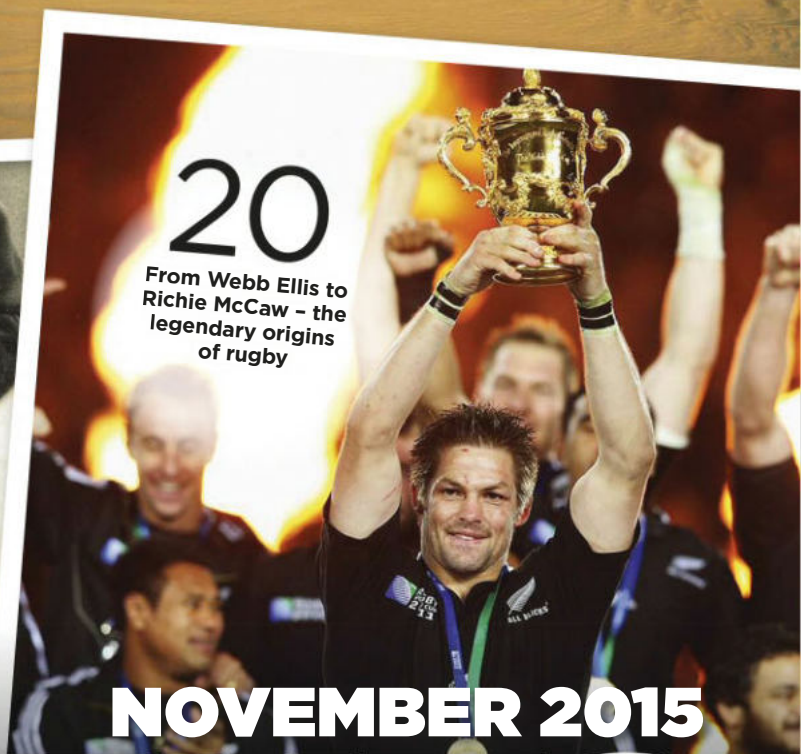
70

All aboard the Camel
train for Ibn Battuta's
three-decade travels



20

From Webb Ellis to
Richie McCaw - the
legendary origins
of rugby



NOVEMBER 2015

CONTENTS

Q&A

Ask the Experts

Your questions answered.....p81

In a Nutshell

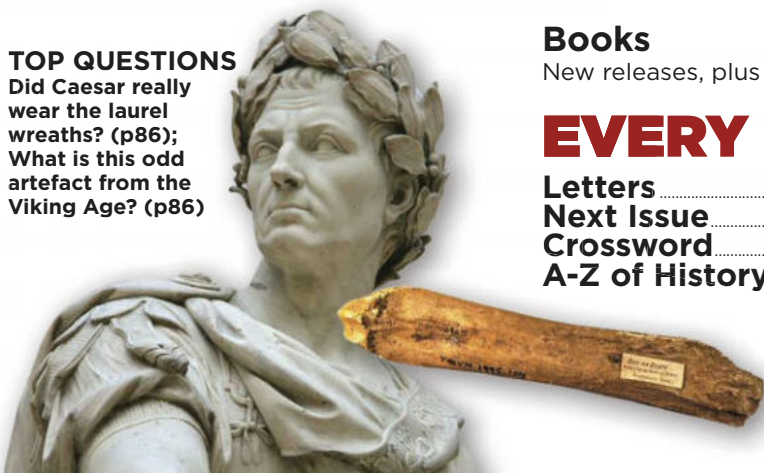
South Africa during Apartheid.....p83

COVER STORY How Did They do That?

The Colosseum of Ancient Rome.....p84

TOP QUESTIONS

Did Caesar really
wear the laurel
wreaths? (p86);
What is this odd
artefact from the
Viking Age? (p86)



HERE & NOW

On our Radar

Our pick of what's on this month.....p88

COVER STORY Britain's Treasures

Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae.....p90

COVER STORY Past Lives

Surviving the Peterloo Massacre.....p92

Books

New releases, plus the Celts.....p94

EVERY ISSUE

Letters.....p6

Next Issue.....p93

Crossword.....p97

A-Z of History.....p98

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subscription offers
on **page 24**



READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

KEY TARGET

This 14 November marks the 75th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz. Whilst the articles are always poignant and immensely moving, many fail to outline just why Coventry was thought such a target in 1940.

Coventry could rightly claim to have been an aircraft city in World War I. From

A shop steward strike held in November 1917 produced a furious reaction around the country. Germany was being reinforced and the Russian Revolution inspired a deep suspicion of militancy in the factories. The Coventry strikers provoked widespread alarm.

“Coventry’s connections to aeronautical warfare were crucial...”

1914–18, the BE2c, RE8, Bristol F2B and Sopwith Pups, Camels and Snipes were all assembled and constructed there. It could also boast one of the largest air acceptance parks in the country – the nine-hangar Air Acceptance Park 1 at Radford Aerodrome. But, more importantly, it was a centre of aero engine and magneto production.

This disapproval reached a climax early in December 1917, when a fleet of RNAS aircraft approached the city from the west and spent most of the day circling and dropping flyers. The propaganda leaflets urged them to return to their duties or face the Front. After further negotiation, the strikers returned to work on 5 December.

GLIMMER OF HOPE

Page 55 of the latest issue (In Pictures: the Blitz, September 2015) shows a young girl playing with an intact dolls house amid the wreckage of her home. This photo was very poignant to me, as I’m sure it was for many

readers, as it truly seemed to display the unbreakable British spirit that this article was discussing – even the people behind her clearing the rubble are smiling. What I think would be interesting would be to see

LETTER OF THE MONTH

WHEN BRITAIN KEPT CALM...

It is 75 years since the start of the Blitz, yet the impact of the bombs that fell on major British cities continues to resonate and define a nation...

BEHIND THE BOMBING

Like all the cities covered in our Blitz feature (In Pictures, September 2015) there’s a reason Coventry was targeted

But the same workers also made Coventry one of the King’s Armouries from 1914–18 – a quarter of all military aircraft were made there. More crucially, it was responsible for the war-winning BR1 and BR2 Bentley engines, which were fitted to Sopwith Camel and Sopwith Snipe aircraft in the battle to win back superiority of the skies in 1917–18.

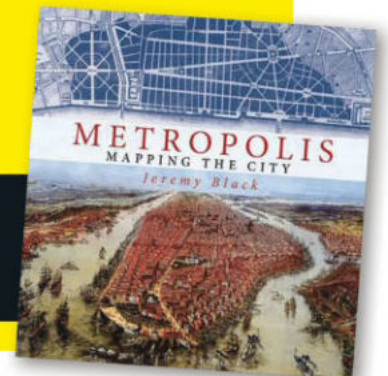
Coventry’s connections to aeronautical warfare were therefore crucial, a fact that cannot have escaped a certain young fighter pilot then serving

in Jagdstaffel 27 in northern France – Hermann Göring! **Simon Moody**, West Midlands

Editor replies:

Thanks for your enlightening letter, Simon, which is a timely reminder of just how much WWI led to the global conflict that began two decades on.

Simon wins a copy of *Metropolis: Mapping the City*, by Jeremy Black, published by Bloomsbury, worth £30. This book considers how cities have been mapped, from ancient times to the modern day.



a comparison of pictures from German civilians during the war, as I have often felt that the ordinary people of Germany are demonised during this part of history.

Emily Hammond, Nottinghamshire

Editor replies:

With the old adage that history is written by the victors, you’re quite right that it’s important we also remember those innocents who suffered on the side of the vanquished.

THE OTHER SIDE
Victims of an air raid in Berlin work on makeshift shelters

f I read the latest edition of your very enjoyable and informative magazine on holiday in Cyprus and read it from cover to cover in just a few days. I particularly enjoyed the article on the 1851 Great Exhibition (The Big Story, September 2015) and the spectacular Crystal Palace designed by Joseph Paxton. I cannot wait until time travel is a reality so I can go and visit it for myself. I think we should launch a campaign for the magnificent edifice to be rebuilt in time for the bi-centenary in 2051.
Paul Sheehan

BODY DAMAGE?

I read with interest your article on the murder of Lord Mountbatten (Yesterday’s Papers, August 2015), particularly where you state that “his legs had almost been


blown off". Interestingly at the time, I seem to remember the cause of death was said to have been a heart attack and his body was unharmed. Philip Ziegler in his 'official biography' of 1985, wrote "...his limbs remarkably unscathed. He had been killed instantly by the blast."

Was this a playing down of the facts at the time to protect the family, or have the real extent of Mountbatten's injuries only recently come to light?

Jonathan Mordey,
West Yorkshire

Writer Jonny Wilkes replies:

It's an interesting question, Jonathan. Most accounts of the attack do indeed mention how his legs were almost blown off. But it is, of course, quite possible that the royals would not have wanted to highlight the gruesome details at the time.

 **Reading @HistoryRevMag and horrified by the 'Mutiny of the Batavia'...ashamed to say I've never been aware of it until now. Abominable.**
@DevilboyScooby

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

In the feature on the Holy Grail (The Big Story, October 2015), it states that the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) were written between AD 80 and 100. This is probably true of John's Gospel, but pages from all three synoptic gospels have been identified among the Dead Sea Scrolls, which are believed to have been assembled by a community which was destroyed in around AD 69, meaning they must already have been written by then.

Furthermore, Luke's other work, the Acts of the Apostles, can be shown (from its references to known Roman officials) to have been written around AD 62 and, in it, he refers to the gospel he had already written. Both Luke and Matthew draw independently of each other on Mark's gospel, which must therefore have existed before them, and both also quote extensively from a



SHROUDED IN MYTH

Historians continue to make educated guesses about the topics that surround the Grail

lost source known as 'Q' which probably existed by AD 42, according to internal evidence, and appears to have been unknown to Mark.

Paul Geddes,
West Midlands

Writer Pat Kinsella replies:

The danger with a feature such as that of the Holy Grail is that there is supposition everywhere around the story. Most historians and academics believe that Mark's is the earliest gospel, and that it was probably written between AD 70 and 75, although very possibly a few years later, with the others being produced over the following two decades. I could perhaps have made the span c70-100 AD, but I stand by the deliberately worded claim that "historians believe" they were written at a date that makes it improbable that they were first-hand accounts.

WORLD RENOWN

I read with great interest your article on the Lewis and Clark expedition (Great Adventures, August 2015).

I am an Englishman, living in Billings, Montana. *History Revealed* is sold at the local Barnes and Noble bookshop and my (American) wife and I always buy and enjoy the latest copy.


We both work in the Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretation Centre gift shop as volunteers. There, we meet many visitors from all around the world but mainly, of course, from the US.

Americans are taught about Lewis and Clark and their expedition as part of the school

curriculum. What has surprised me is the large number of Europeans visiting the Pillar who know the story. There is a significant knowledge of the exploits of this very remarkable group of people across the Western world.

Incidentally, your article implies that Jefferson organised the expedition as a result of the Louisiana Purchase. In fact, he had authorised the expedition before the purchase materialised.

Peter V Boothroyd,
Montana, USA





 **I love easy-to-understand explanations of hard-to-understand history.**
@ScottFilmCritic

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 20 are:
C Deacy, Cheshire
Cyril Maslin, Hampshire
Katherine McDiarmid, Berkshire
Congratulations! You have each won a signed copy of *Rome's Lost Son* by Robert Fabbri, worth £14.99.
To tackle this month's crossword turn to page 97.

GET IN TOUCH

HOW TO CONTACT US

 **haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com**
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Have Your Say, *History Revealed*,
Immediate Media, Tower House,
Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

HISTORY REVEALED

EDITORIAL

Editor Paul McGuinness
paul.mcguinness@historyrevealed.com
Production Editor Mel Sherwood
mel.sherwood@historyrevealed.com
Staff Writer Jonny Wilkes
jonny.wilkes@historyrevealed.com

ART

Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho
Picture Editor Rosie McPherson
Illustrators Dawn Cooper,
Chris Stocker

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS

Jon Bauckham, Paul Bloomfield,
Emily Brand, Emily Bright, Lottie
Goldfinch, Julian Humphrys,
Greg Jenner, Pat Kinsella, Sandra
Lawrence, Gordon O'Sullivan, Jim
Parsons, Miles Russell, Richard
Smyth, Nige Tassell

PRESS & PR

Communications Manager
Dominic Lobley 0207 150 5015
dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager Helen Seymour

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Senior Advertisement Manager
Steve Grigg steve.grigg@immediate.co.uk
Advertisement Manager
Sam Jones 0117 314 8847
sam.jones@immediate.co.uk
Brand Sales Executive
Sam Evanson 0117 314 8754
sam.evanson@immediate.co.uk
Subscriptions Director
Jacky Perales-Morris
Marketing Executive Natalie Medler

PRODUCTION

Production Director Sarah Powell
Production Co-ordinator
Emily Mounter
Ad Co-ordinator Jade O'Halloran
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Reprographics Rob Fletcher,
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PUBLISHING

Publisher David Musgrove
Publishing Director Andy Healy
Managing Director Andy Marshall
Chairman Stephen Alexander
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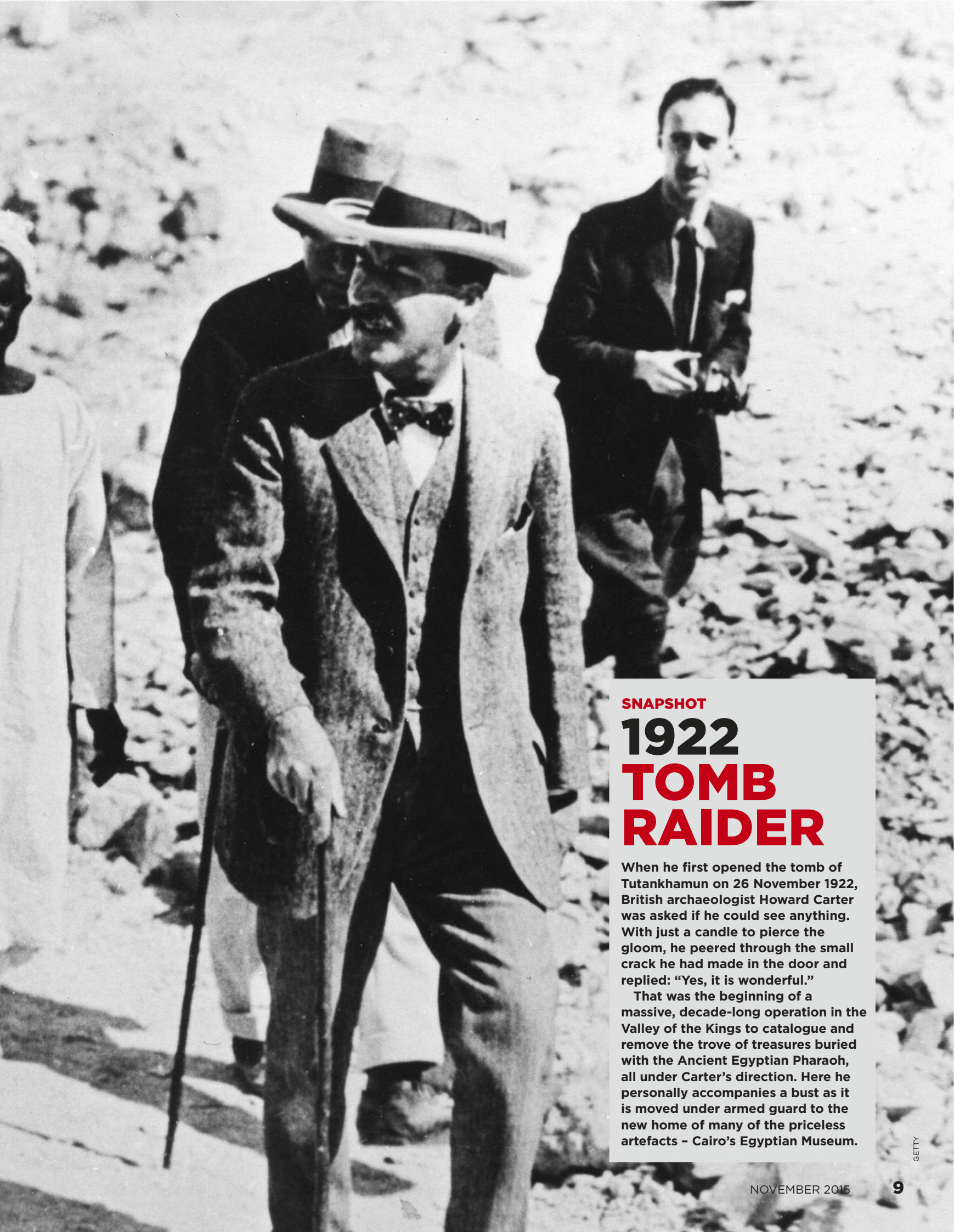




TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY





SNAPSHOT

1922 TOMB RAIDER

When he first opened the tomb of Tutankhamun on 26 November 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter was asked if he could see anything. With just a candle to pierce the gloom, he peered through the small crack he had made in the door and replied: "Yes, it is wonderful."

That was the beginning of a massive, decade-long operation in the Valley of the Kings to catalogue and remove the trove of treasures buried with the Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh, all under Carter's direction. Here he personally accompanies a bust as it is moved under armed guard to the new home of many of the priceless artefacts – Cairo's Egyptian Museum.

GETTY



TIME CAPSULE
NOVEMBER





SNAPSHOT

1940 BLITZ SPIRIT

Tens of thousands of bombs may be falling on Britain, dropped in a relentless series of air raids by the German Luftwaffe, but daily life during the Blitz continues as best it can. Even the threat of a bomb that didn't go off properly – a UXB – doesn't stop the daily milk delivery on a cold, November morning in Sidcup.

When an unexploded bomb is found, the surrounding area is closed and a team is sent in with the extremely dangerous task of defusing the device. With so many bombs falling, there is no way of locating every UXB, so many are lost. They are still being found to this day.

**DANGER
UNEXPLODED
BOMB**



TIME CAPSULE
NOVEMBER





SNAPSHOT

1925 MAN OF STEEL

It may look like a prototype design for the robot from 1950s science-fiction cult movie *Forbidden Planet*, but this is actually a diving suit. Designed by engineer Joseph Salim Peress (seen here demonstrating his creation at the 1925 Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition at Olympia), the stainless steel suit will, he claims, allow divers to reach great depths while at atmospheric pressure. Steel proves way too heavy to be used underwater, but an undeterred Peress goes on to pioneer the first practical diving suit in 1930.

GETTY



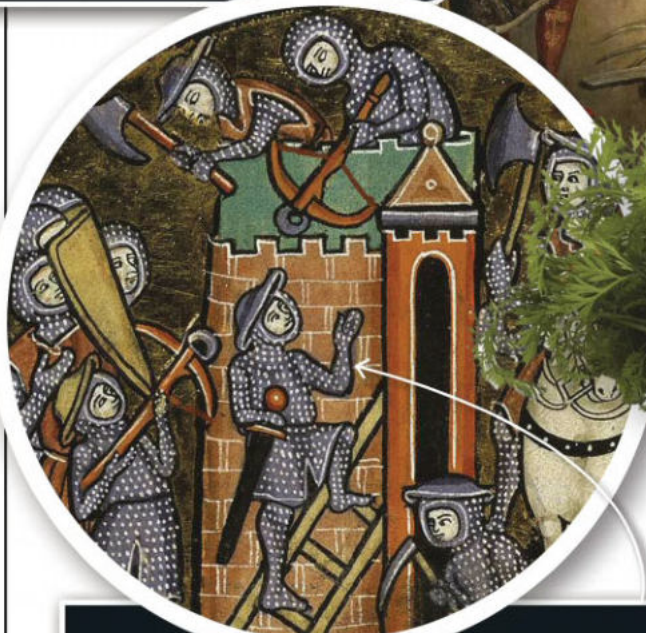
“I READ THE NEWS TODAY...”

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **November**

HOUNDING OUT HERESY

1478 NOBODY EXPECTS THE SPANISH INQUISITION

For more than 350 years, from its establishment on 1 November 1478, the Spanish Inquisition was tasked to protect Roman Catholicism and tackle heresy. In truth, it became a **seat of substantial power and influence**, and the methods used gave it a fearsome and brutal reputation. From the first grand inquisitor in Spain, Tomás de Torquemada, suspects faced **torture and execution**, many by burning at the stake. It is unknown how many died before the Inquisition was eventually abolished in 1834.



TEMPLE RESTORED

165 BC JUBILATION FOR JERUSALEM AND THE JEWS

Every year, the Jewish community celebrates the ‘**festival of lights**’, **Hanukkah**, to remember a miracle in their long history. In the second century BC, the Seleucid Empire suppressed the Jewish religion – the Temple of Jerusalem was desecrated and people were forced to worship the Greek gods. Anger spilled over into revolt, led by the **skilled military tactician Judas Maccabeus** who, in 165 BC, recaptured Jerusalem. The Maccabees went to the temple, where they found the holy oil ruined, except for one day’s supply. It is said the **oil miraculously burned for eight days**, which is why Hanukkah lasts that long today.

BIGGER THAN THE BIBLE

In the first year of being on sale in Britain, *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* sold 2 million copies, outselling the Bible.

INSTANT BESTSELLER

1960 LOVE FOR LADY CHATTERLEY

In just hours on 10 November 1960, all copies of DH Lawrence’s controversial novel *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* had been sold to tens of thousands of readers who had eagerly awaited its publication. The notoriously explicit tale of a relationship between a working-class man and an upper-class woman had been **banned in Britain for more than 30 years** but, in a legal case that tested the Obscene Publications Act of 1959, Penguin Books were judged to be free to publish. The nation had been enthralled by the six-day trial and Penguin rushed out a **print-run of 200,000 copies**, an amount woefully inadequate to meet the huge demand.

FOOD COLOURING

1688 WHY CARROTS ARE ORANGE

Purple, white, red and yellow aren’t colours usually associated with carrots, but before the 17th century, the yummy vegetable would be grown in a **whole rainbow of hues**. Carrots first turned orange (according to the popular but questionable theory) in the Netherlands, where farmers thought the colour would show **respect to the nation’s ruling House of Orange**. By the time William of Orange landed in England in November 1688 to seize the crown, the new colour of carrots had stuck.





3

DANGER
CHOKING
HAZARD

HOOK'S HIGH JINKS 1810 THE BEST PLACE IN TOWN

Inveterate prankster Theodore Hook once made a bet that he could make any house the most talked-about spot in London. He sent out **thousands of requests for deliveries and visitors**, all for 26 November 1810, to 54 Berners Street. For the entire day, Mrs Tottenham, who lived there, endured an endless line of chimney sweeps, mongers, bakers, doctors, men delivering pianos – and even dignitaries such as the **Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Mayor** – flocking to her front door, causing mass congestion outside. Hook's fun finally ended when police closed the street.



FOUL SHOT 1893 A BAD BILLIARD BALL BLUNDER

One night in November 1893, after a few drinks in the Carlisle Arms pub in Soho, Walter Cowle was eager to **show off his party piece** of being able to fit a billiard ball in his mouth. So the 24-year-old asked for a ball from the landlord, placed it in his mouth and closed his gob shut. The trick was going well – for a matter of seconds. **Cowle began choking** and, as nobody could extricate the ball, he soon collapsed and died. At the inquest, the coroner felt the need to point out that putting a billiard ball in your mouth to impress your friends was **"silly and dangerous"**.

LEOTARD LAUNCH 1859 MADE TO LOOK TRAP-EASY

There were two reasons why the audience at Paris's Cirque Napoléon left stunned on 12 November 1859. They had just witnessed **Frenchman Jules Léotard** perform never-seen-before aerial acrobats using bars suspended by ropes – the **birth of the trapeze** – while wearing a risqué skin-tight garment. Named after him, his 'leotard' was aerodynamic, but also showed off his muscular figure. This, it was said, **proved a hit** with the ladies in the crowd.

So that Jules Léotard could safely rehearse the trapeze, he set up his equipment over his father's swimming pool.

"...OH BOY"

November events that changed the world

12 NOVEMBER 1035 CAN'T TURN BACK THE TIDE

The powerful Cnut the Great – King of Denmark, Norway and England – dies.

28 NOVEMBER 1520 AROUND THE WORLD

During the first circumnavigation of the world, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sails into the Pacific Ocean.

28 NOVEMBER 1660 BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

The initial meeting of the Royal Society (the world's oldest national scientific organisation) is held in London.

19 NOVEMBER 1863 "FOUR SCORE..."

US President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.

2 NOVEMBER 1936 BEEB BROADCASTS

The BBC starts begins its public television service.

13 NOVEMBER 1947 AUTOMATIC SUCCESS

Prototypes of the AK47 assault rifle are finalised.

9 NOVEMBER 1989 WRITING ON THE WALL

Berliners from East and West gather to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall.

AND FINALLY...

On 18 November 1686, following months of being a **royal pain in the bottom**, French King Louis XIV had an operation... for a royal pain on his bottom. The understandably nervous surgeon Charles-François Félix not only designed tools for the procedure, but **practised on dozens of peasants and prisoners**, some of whom died. The Royal op, however, was a complete success.



'I wanted to spare Mrs Kennedy grief...'

AVENGER KILLS OSWALD

Expressman: I saw it all



Oswald, right, gasps as the bullet strikes

Jackie presses her lips to the coffin

from RENE MacCOLL: Washington, Sunday

THE coffin containing the body of the assassinated President Kennedy lay beneath an American flag in the huge rotunda of the American Capitol building.

From the throng of famous people standing silently about it there stepped the slim and girlish figure of the widowed Jacqueline Kennedy. She was in black and a small black lace mantle partly covered her dark brown hair.

As she glided towards the coffin her six-year-old daughter, Caroline, went hand in hand with her mother.

Mrs Kennedy looked utterly broken with misery, but her beautiful face was composed and she kept back the tears.

Prayed

As she arrived at the pier—it was the same used to support the coffin of another famous murdered American President, Abraham Lincoln, a hundred years ago—she dropped to her knees and prayed briefly.

Then she deliberately leaned forward, lifted the flag slightly and lightly pressed her lips to the coffin.

The sight of the farewell kiss was one of the most intensely poignant incidents that I have ever witnessed.

The impact was absolutely heartrending and although Mrs Kennedy, as she rose and walked away, still retained control of her emotions, not many of the onlookers were able to do the same.

The Kennedys' two-year-old son John also was present. But his mother did the tears.

Mrs Kennedy and children

from DAVID ENGLISH
Dallas, Sunday

LEE OSWALD, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, was cut down by a bullet in the basement of Dallas police station today. He died soon after in hospital.

The bullet was fired at point-blank range.

Oswald's death—just 48 hours after President Kennedy's—now stamps Kennedy's assassination as one of history's great riddles.

The world will never know for sure why the President died or if Oswald was really his killer. The man who is alleged to have killed Oswald in unbelievable circumstances in the heavily-guarded basement of the police headquarters at Jack Rubystein, a rich and well-known Dallas nightclub owner and showman. He is known as Jack Ruby.

Trembling

He told police: "I did not want to be a hero. I did it for Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy. I wanted to spare her the grief and the agony of this man's trial."

"I have a deep sense of feeling for Mrs Kennedy and I felt I had to take this action."

Dallas police chief Jesse Curry, his face grey, his hands shaking, announced Oswald's death in Parkland hospital in a trembling voice.

Later the police said Rubystein would be charged with Oswald's murder.

The disgrace of Dallas—and in particular the Dallas police department—is complete. They let an assassin kill the President of the United States and 48 hours later that alleged assassin was shot in the depths of their own police station.

Drawn guns

The shooting of Oswald took place just 15 feet from where I was standing. I saw it all.

Oswald, surrounded by 40 policemen with drawn guns, was being taken from his cell through the basement into an armoured car.

He was to be transferred two miles to the Dallas county jail where he was to await a grand jury hearing on Wednesday.

As he came out of the door television cameras whirled and Oswald, smiling slightly, was led towards the ramp where the huge grey and white armoured car was parked.

The basement was full of people but a path was cleared between the door and the car. Oswald was escorted by some six policemen.

Slumped

At that moment a stocky man in a dark brown jacket wearing a grey stetson, whom I took to be a detective, stepped forward as if to help the officers escorting Oswald.

Then in a blur of movement he pulled out a slung 38 revolver and shot Oswald at point blank range.

Pandemonium swept the basement. Reporters and photographers pushed forward to where Oswald was slumped on the ground and half a dozen police were



Jack Ruby, Dallas nightclub owner, levels



Detective who disarmed Ruby turns away holding the gun

RUBY'S REVENGE

In the aftermath of Oswald's death, Jack Ruby claimed, "I didn't want to be a hero. I did it for Jacqueline Kennedy" (JFK's wife). Found guilty in 1964, he was sentenced to death, but this was overturned and Ruby would die, in 1967, of a pulmonary embolism (due to lung cancer) before his retrial.

MANAGER JAMESON: Page 12
New President: Page 12

This Christmas...

For guests... For gifts...

'BLACK & WHITE'
SCOTCH WHISKY
"BUCHANAN"

THE SECRET'S IN THE BLENDING

BOTTLE 40% • HALF BOTTLE 20% • QUARTER BOTTLE 10% • MINUTING 40

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **25 November 1963**, the front pages were filled with the murder of JFK's assassin

"YOU KILLED THE PRESIDENT, YOU RAT!" JACK RUBY

Some have deemed the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald as righteous vengeance, while to others, it was vigilante murder. On 24 November 1963, the man arrested for the assassination of President John F Kennedy two days earlier was himself gunned down.

It all happened in a flash in the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters, as the 24-year-old Oswald was being transferred to county jail. With an unruly crowd of officers and camera crews looking on, Jack Ruby, a local nightclub owner, was unnoticed as he stepped forward, pulled a .38 caliber revolver and shot Oswald at point-blank range. Despite being rushed to Parkland Hospital, the same place where JFK had died, the wound to Oswald's stomach was too severe. He died minutes after arriving.

Reportedly, in the moment before firing, Ruby shouted, "You killed the President, you rat!" – something Oswald denied during his interrogations, claiming he was a "patsy". The evidence, however, stacked against him. He had been arrested on 22 November, an hour after JFK was shot as his motorcade made its way along Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas. In the pandemonium, Oswald had killed policeman JD Tippit and his rifle was discovered on the sixth floor of the Book Depository where he worked, which had a vantage point of the Kennedys' open-top car.

Yet Oswald's murder at the hands of Ruby left too many questions unanswered, so it wasn't long before JFK's assassination became a hotbed of conspiracy theories. To this day, the debate rages over Oswald's role and whether Ruby's actions can be justified. ☉



TOP: A Secret Service agent leaps on the presidential car after JFK is shot
RIGHT: Lee Harvey Oswald poses with his rifle in Dallas in March 1963
FAR RIGHT: Jack Ruby is hounded before his hearing



CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Although the Warren Commission, assembled to investigate JFK's death, announced in 1964 that Oswald carried out the killing alone – firing three times using a rifle with a telescopic range – **many believe a second gunman was positioned at the nearby grassy knoll.**

1963 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

7 NOVEMBER After being trapped underground for a fortnight, **11 West German miners** are saved from a collapsed mine, in a complex rescue known as The Miracle of Lengede.

14 NOVEMBER When a volcanic eruption 130 metres below sea level breaks the surface near Iceland, **a new island is dramatically formed.** It is named Surtsey, after a fire giant of Norse legend.

23 NOVEMBER The **opening episode of Doctor Who** is aired but, due to black-outs and extended coverage of JFK's assassination, the Doctor's first adventure is broadcast again a week later.

GRAPHIC HISTORY

The oldest scientific institution in the world

1660 ROYAL SOCIETY ESTABLISHED

On 28 November 1660, architect Christopher Wren gave a lecture at Gresham College in London and the Royal Society was born

TIMELINE

The Royal Society (RS) has been involved in some of the biggest moments in science...

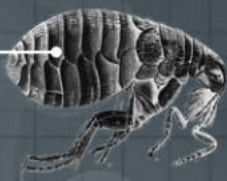


1660

The **Royal Society is founded**. The 12-strong committee announces the arrival of "a college for the promoting of physico-mathematical experimental learning".

The RS publishes *Micrographia*, physicist Robert Hooke's landmark book, which features drawings made under a microscope and contains the **first use of the word 'cell'**.

1665



1752

Benjamin Franklin writes a paper on his **kite-and-key experiment**, which proves the electrical nature of lightning, for the RS. He is elected a fellow in 1756.



1731

The Copley Medal, the RS's **oldest and most prestigious award**, is established. Each year it is awarded "for outstanding achievements in research in any branch of science". Notable recipients include mathematician Michael Faraday, naturalist Charles Darwin and biochemist Dorothy Hodgkin.

The idea of **inoculation** appears in English print for the first time in the *Philosophical Transactions* - the RS's journal. Soon after, the **fight against smallpox** in the West begins.

1714



1677

Dutch textile merchant Antonie van Leeuwenhoek switches professions when he becomes the first human to **observe micro-organisms**. He reports his findings to the RS and is elected a foreign member a few years later.

Physicist **Isaac Newton's theory** on light and colours is explained for the first time in a paper published by the RS. In 1687, he will also publish his theory of gravity with the RS.

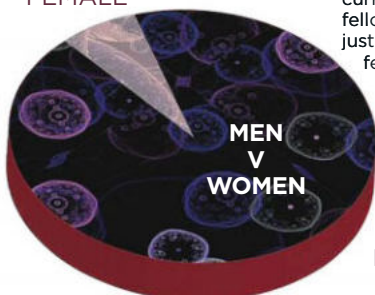
1672



FELLOW OR FOREIGN MEMBER?

Fellows are scientists and engineers from the **UK and the Commonwealth** who are elected due to their contribution to "the improvement of natural knowledge". Eminent scientists from outside the Commonwealth can be elected as **foreign members**.

7% FEMALE



Of the 1,430 current fellows, just 7% are female.

282

PEOPLE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP HAVE WON THE NOBEL PRIZE

TO THE MAXIM

The Royal Society's motto is '*Nullius in verba*' - or 'Take nobody's word for it'.

PROOF

The RS invests in an expedition to observe the planet **Venus from French Polynesia**. The expedition is also granted approval to search for a **theoretical southern continent**. The commander, James Cook, successfully finds Australia and New Zealand.

1768



Physicist James Chadwick **discovers the neutron** and his findings are published by the RS. Shortly after, he goes on to work on the British atomic bomb project.

1932

1939



A secret party is held at the RS's Burlington House for all the **Jewish scientists** and intellectuals who have managed to flee Nazism. While it is widely reported in the press, the **guest list remains classified** in order to protect any relatives still in danger.

1781

A new body is discovered in the Milky Way, which turns out to be **a new planet**. Uranus, as it will eventually be known, is reported to the Royal Society by astronomer William Herschel.

1919



Astronomers make observations during a total eclipse that support **Einstein's general theory of relativity**. They report their findings to the RS and Einstein is elected a member within two years.

1945

The RS gains its **first female fellows**: crystallographer Kathleen Lonsdale (below) and biochemist Marjory Stephenson.



1823

Charles Babbage's Difference Engine – a mechanical device that can compute mathematical tables, and the **earliest form of computer** – is approved by the RS.

1894

After a RS lecture, chemist William Ramsay and physicist Lord Rayleigh discuss the idea of researching **atmospheric gases**. Together they discover argon, before Ramsay goes on to identify helium, neon, krypton and xenon.

1953

Molecular biologists Francis Crick and James Watson discover the **structure of DNA** and co-author a paper on their breakthrough for the RS.



1825

A doctor named Gideon Mantell tells the RS of some prehistoric bones he found in Sussex in 1822. The bones are from the **first-discovered land dinosaur**, the Iguanodon.



1839



Inventor William Henry Fox Talbot contacts the RS with his process of **'photogenic drawing'**. It is promptly renamed **photography** and a new art form is born.

1956

The RS sets up its research base at Halley Bay, Antarctica. The base becomes a crucial location for **climate research**, recording – in 1985 – the severe degradation of the ozone layer.



THE SPOILS OF SCIENCE

The first **Copley Medal** came with a prize of £1,000. Today, the winner receives £25,000.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

This year, the Society's esteemed publication, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, celebrated its 350th anniversary. It is the **world's oldest** continuously published **journal**.



X FACTOR

The maximum number of **new fellows** that may be elected each year is **52**. Ten foreign members may also be elected.

61

The number of Royal Society presidents since 1660. These include **Samuel Pepys, Isaac Newton, Humphry Davy** and **Ernest Rutherford**. The 62nd president, Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, begins his five-year term of office on 30 November 2015.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The legendary tale of a schoolboy who broke the rules of football and created a new sport

1823 WILLIAM WEBB ELLIS GIVES RUGBY A TRY

The winners of the 2015 Rugby World Cup will raise a trophy with his name, but Webb Ellis's role in inventing modern rugby is steeped more in myth than fact...

The name 'Webb Ellis' is never too far from the minds of the world's elite rugby players, as for a couple of months every four years, it takes on a special symbolism in their sport. That is because it is the name inscribed on the trophy they all dream of lifting, but few ever do – rugby's greatest prize, the World Cup. So who was Webb Ellis and why does he hold a place of such high esteem to the rugby community worldwide?

RULE-BREAKER

In 1823, William Webb Ellis was a teenage pupil at Warwickshire's prestigious Rugby School when he committed a momentous act of rule-breaking. During a football match with his schoolmates – although it was more a brawl than the game we know today – he picked up the ball, which was permitted, and started to run with it, which was not. That single, simple deed heralded Webb Ellis as the inventor of a modern handling sport – rugby football.


It's a romantic piece of folklore, but almost certainly apocryphal. The legend originated with two letters to the school's magazine, *The Meteor*, by former pupil Matthew Bloxam, the first of

which was written four years after Webb Ellis's death in 1876.

ESTABLISHING A UNION

Bloxam's second account from 1880 recalled that "Ellis, for the first time ... on catching the ball, instead of retiring backwards, rushed forwards with the ball in his hands towards the opposite goal." But when an investigation into the reliability of Bloxam's letters was carried out in the 1890s, it yielded nothing.

The growth of rugby (union) in the 19th century came down to the first set of written rules, published in 1845, and the formation of the Rugby Football Union in 1871. As Rugby School was responsible (or at least involved) with these developments, however, Webb Ellis remained within the game's consciousness.

Rugby spread across the world, taking the name of William Webb Ellis and his myth with it. And when the decision was made before the inaugural World Cup in 1987 to name the trophy in his honour, this public schoolboy's position on the rugby field was cemented for ever more. 

STAR PUPIL

A bronze statue of William Webb Ellis stands outside his alma mater, Rugby School

SCRUMMING ALUM

Outside Rugby School stands this statue of William Webb Ellis, along with a plaque commemorating how Webb Ellis "with a fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it".

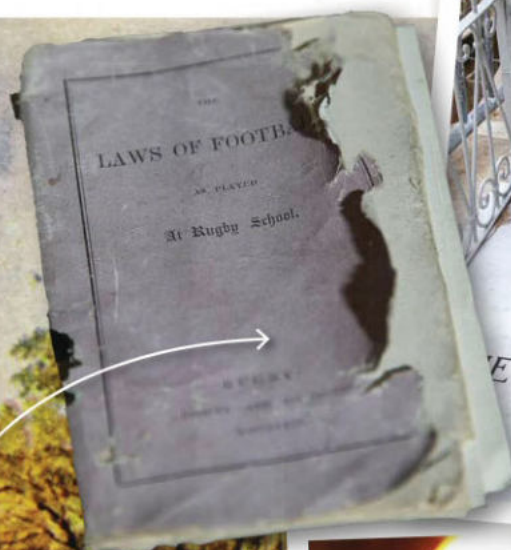


“Ellis, for the first time... rushed forwards with the ball in his hands towards the opposite goal”

Matthew Bloxam

SELF-DISCIPLINE

Today, it is the referees who figuratively throw the book at misbehaving players, but when the first rules were written down in 1845, they were **carried around the pitch** in the pockets of team members.



THE BIRTH OF RUGBY

MAIN: Rugby School, seen in a mid-19th century painting, is known as the spiritual home of rugby

TOP LEFT: An 1864 copy of the early written rules of the sport

TOP: Webb Ellis's grave in southern France, where he died in 1872, with the World Cup trophy that bears his name

ABOVE: Captain Richie McCaw lifts the trophy after the New Zealand All Blacks won the World Cup in 2011



RUNNING WITH IT

In the 19th century, there were no strict rules of football. In fact, it was common for those playing at Rugby School to **discuss and change the laws** before each match.

THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Pretender to the English throne, **Perkin Warbeck**

1499 A THREAT TO KING HENRY VII'S THRONE ENDS WITH AN EXECUTION

Although his claim was spurious and his rebellions pathetic, Perkin Warbeck jeopardised the Tudor dynasty, just as it was beginning...

When Henry Tudor came to the throne of England in 1485, his position was by no means secure.

The country was still reeling from a protracted and bloody conflict, the Wars of the Roses, and almost immediately the new king faced threats to his crown from resentful Yorkists. He may have hoped he could sleep easier after crushing Lambert Simnel's rebellion in 1487, but for eight years in the 1490s, another pretender, Perkin Warbeck, gave Henry VII reason to be anxious for his fledgling dynasty.

THE PRETENDER PRINCE

In 1491, Warbeck, a Flemish teenager who spent his youth working for several merchants, landed at the Irish city of Cork. As he was clad in the fine, silk clothes of his latest master, the people assumed he was of noble blood. It was an image Warbeck was happy to promote and it handed a golden opportunity to Henry's enemies in Ireland.

Though he spoke little English, the vain and vulnerable Warbeck was hailed as Richard, Duke of York – one of the missing 'Princes in the Tower', heir to the English throne and rumoured to have been murdered by Richard III. The (rather weak) claim was that when his 'brother' was killed at the Tower of London in 1483, the other prince had escaped to Europe. The deception was enough to fool some – and to be exploited by others.

Wearing his new identity, Warbeck travelled to the courts of Europe seeking support for an invasion. Whether due to credulity or political expediency, Charles VIII of France, Austria's Maximilian I and even Margaret of Burgundy (the real Richard's aunt) received him. When Henry heard that Margaret had acknowledged a pretender as her nephew, he cut off England's lucrative cloth trade with the Burgundian Netherlands. Undeterred, Warbeck prepared for his invasion.

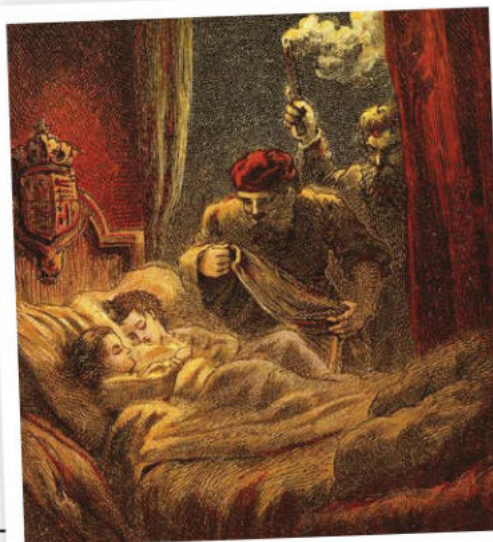
On 3 July 1495, a small force landed near Deal in Kent with the hope of gathering support while marching. Before Warbeck had disembarked, however, his 150 men were overpowered by the waiting defences and the invasion was in tatters. A humiliated Warbeck sailed to Ireland, where he failed risibly to besiege the pro-Henry town of Waterford, and then on to Scotland.

FARCICAL, FEEBLE, FAILED

While residing in the court of King James IV, Warbeck had time to regroup and secure an alliance with Scotland through his marriage to James's cousin, Catherine Gordon, celebrated in Edinburgh with a lavish tournament. By September 1496, James and Warbeck were ready

"Thus I, an orphan, bereaved of my royal father and brother, an exile from my kingdom... led my miserable life in fear and weeping and grief"

In a letter from 1493, Perkin Warbeck tries to convince Queen Isabella of Spain that he is one of the lost 'Princes in the Tower'



MYSTERIOUS BACKSTORY
As no-one knew what happened to the 'Princes in the Tower' (left), the story Perkin Warbeck (main) told had a hint of credibility to it

HISTORY

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HISTORY
REVEALED



THE BIG STORY BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

AGAINST THE ODDS

Agincourt: when Henry V famously led his underdog archers to victory – but there's much more to the story than that...

ANDREW LLOYD/WWW.ALPICTURES.CO.UK XI GETTY XI, PRESS ASSOCIATION XI

Henry V's legendary medieval triumph AGINCOURT

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Six hundred years ago, on 25 October 1415, in a muddy field in Picardy, an exhausted, depleted and outnumbered force of predominantly English archers and men-at-arms won one of the most famous military victories in history. A potent symbol of triumph against seemingly impossible odds, the battle

inspired Shakespeare's pen, ensuring that the architect of the victory, Henry V, was remembered as one of England's greatest kings, remaining a national hero today.

Why was the battle fought in the first place, how did Henry's rag-tag army defeat the flower of French chivalry and what effect, if any, did it have on the history of the two warring nations? **Julian Humphrys** explains.

NOW READ ON...

NEED TO KNOW

- 1 The Hundred Years War [p28](#)
- 2 Henry V [p30](#)
- 3 The Road to Battle [p32](#)
- 4 France in Turmoil [p34](#)
- 5 Well Equipped [p36](#)

TIMELINE

Follow the life and reign of Henry V, the warrior king [p38](#)

THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

Henry V's finest hour? [p41](#)

GET HOOKED

There's more to see, read and do [p46](#)



THE BIG STORY BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

RAINING ARROWS

There were some **7,000 English archers** at the Battle of Crécy, with a combined firing power of around **70,000 arrows a minute**.

ITALIAN BATTALION

There were as many as **15,000 crossbowmen** in France's line-up, all from Genoa. Their **crossbows took up to a minute** to reload each.

BOWS AT THE READY

French chronicler Froissart depicts the English victory at Crécy, 1346

1

THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR

Agincourt was just one battle in a multi-generational conflict

The so-called 'Hundred Years War' was, in fact, a series of wars. Waged intermittently from 1337-1453, they saw various kings of England fight the French house of Valois for control of France.

The epic conflict was largely born from the fact that England's king held territory in France and, as such, he owed homage and services to his French overlord. With two supposedly equal kings (and their egos) involved, trouble was, perhaps, inevitable. To compound the matter, the French allied up with the Scots against the English, while the English supported France's enemies, the Flemish.

In 1337, Edward III of England refused to pay homage to Philip VI of France, leading the French King to confiscate Edward's lands in south-west France. Edward hit back. He declared that, as his mother Isabella was the sister of the previous French King, he was the rightful ruler of France, not Philip. The two countries went to war.

In 1346, the English won a major victory at Crécy and then, ten years later, captured King John of France at Poitiers. But Edward was unable to secure total victory and, in 1360, he agreed the Treaty of Bretigny, giving up his claim to the French throne in exchange for land in south-west

France. War restarted in 1369 and, over the next 20 years, the French steadily recaptured much of the land lost by the 1360 treaty.

Over 30 years of peace followed, until, in 1413, Henry V became King of England. He took advantage of divisions in the French court to pursue English interests in France, and he revived the old claim to its throne. In 1415, he laid siege to Harfleur, a port on the River Seine from which the French often launched raids on the English south coast. After a costly and lengthy siege, Harfleur surrendered.

At this stage, Henry could have garrisoned the newly-captured town and sailed home but,

116

The actual length, in years, of the Hundred Years War



VALUABLE ASSET
King John 'the Good' of France is taken prisoner at Poitiers, 1356

GAME CHANGER
Joan of Arc arrives at the court of Charles 'the Dauphin' in 1428



"WITH TWO KINGS (AND THEIR EGOS) INVOLVED, TROUBLE WAS, PERHAPS, INEVITABLE"

wanting to make a point, he instead opted to march north with his army through enemy territory to the English-held enclave at Calais. Tired, hungry and depleted, his army found the route barred by the French at Agincourt. Here, his outnumbered men won a legendary victory and, eventually, Henry returned home in triumph. This victory provided a major boost to the credibility of Henry's Lancastrian regime, and made England's powers more willing to finance future wars of conquest.

Two years later, Henry began the methodical conquest of Normandy. It was then agreed that, on the death of Charles VI, the French king at the time, Henry or his heirs should inherit the French throne. But Charles's son, the 'Dauphin'

fought on in central France. Although Henry died prematurely in 1422, the English, helped by an alliance with the Burgundian faction in France, continued to gain ground but they were becoming overstretched.

In 1429, inspired by a young peasant girl dubbed Joan of Arc, the French broke the English siege of Orléans and had the Dauphin crowned King Charles VII. Once again the English lacked the resources to hold onto the French lands they had conquered and, over the next 20 years, they were steadily pushed back. When their last army was destroyed at Castillon in 1453, all that remained of their once-extensive French territories, were the Channel Islands and the port of Calais.

AGE-OLD RIVALS KEY PLAYERS

FRENCH

CHARLES D'ALBRET (Died 1415)

As Constable of France, he was the most senior officer and co-commander of the French army at Agincourt, where he was killed.



JEAN LE MEINGRE, MARSHAL BOUCAUT (1366-1421)

A veteran soldier and co-commander of the French army, he was captured at Agincourt and remained a prisoner until he died six years later in Yorkshire.



CHARLES, DUKE OF ORLÉANS (1394-1465)

Nephew of King Charles VI of France and leader of the Armagnacs, he was captured at Agincourt. He spent 24 years in prison before he was released.



ENGLISH

HENRY V (1386 or 1387 – 1422)

Henry's father had usurped the throne to become king in 1399. Henry V had been monarch for two and a half years when he sailed for France in 1415.



EDWARD, DUKE OF YORK (1373-1415)

Despite the fact that his brother had been executed for plotting against Henry, he was given command of the English right wing at Agincourt, where he died.



SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM (1355-1428)

A veteran Norfolk knight and old friend of Henry IV. He probably organised the archers at Agincourt and gave the signal for the army to advance at the start of the battle.





HENRY V

England's leader at Agincourt was an ambitious young man with a serious set of military skills

The son of Henry Bolingbroke and Mary Bohun, Henry V was born on 16 September 1386 or 1387, in the gatehouse tower of Monmouth Castle. When young Henry was 13 or 14, his father seized the throne and became Henry IV, making the boy Prince of Wales.

Henry IV had to fight hard to retain his throne. He faced war on the Scottish border, an insurrection in Wales led by Owain Glyndwr (the last Welshman to hold the title of Prince of Wales) and rebellions in England, notably spearheaded by the powerful Percy family.

26

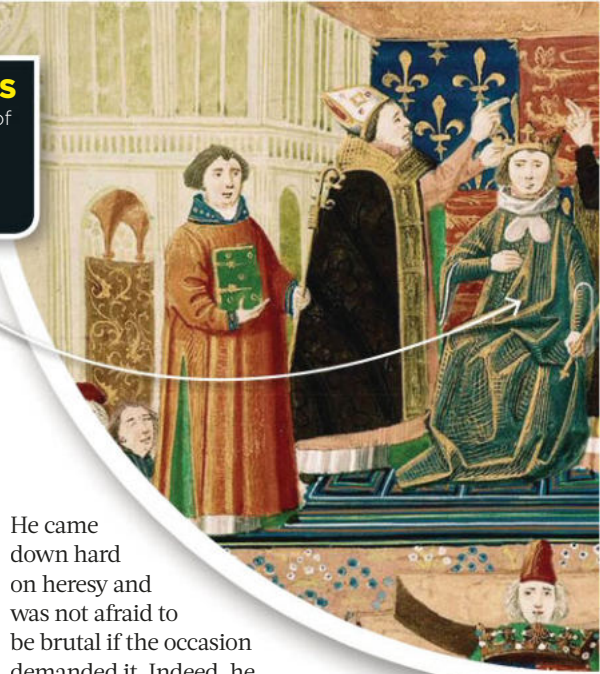
Henry V's age when he succeeded to the throne of England

Young Henry accompanied his father on many campaigns, and was badly wounded at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 (see Scars of Youth, right). The young prince also took a leading role in the war against Glyndwr in Wales, first as nominal and then as actual commander of military operations there. During this time he learned valuable lessons in command, logistics, military finance and siege warfare – knowledge he was to use to devastating effect after he became King in 1413, and decided to restart war in France.

By most accounts, Henry was a serious, pious young man, who could be extremely ruthless.

WE THREE KINGS

Henry IV was the first of three kings from the **House of Lancaster**, which included his son and grandson.



He came down hard on heresy and was not afraid to be brutal if the occasion demanded it. Indeed, he ordered a massacre of his French prisoners at Agincourt (see The Kill Command, page 44). He proved to be an inspiring leader and his men had confidence in him. He followed his victory over the French at Agincourt with the strategic conquest of Normandy between 1417 and 1419 – a masterpiece of military organisation. When he died of dysentery in 1422, he had been at the peak of his powers, was heir to the throne of France and in control of much of that country.

THREAT ON THE HOME FRONT THE SOUTHAMPTON PLOT

Henry V was at Portchester Castle, in Hampshire, supervising the mustering of his army for the invasion of France when he was brought news of a treasonous plot. Conspirators planned to murder him and his brothers and to put Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March – who was seen by some as the lawful heir of Richard II – on the throne. The ringleader was Richard, Earl of Cambridge, the younger brother of Edward, Duke of York (one of Henry's military leaders). Cambridge's co-conspirators were Sir Thomas Gray and Lord Scrope of Masham. It was Edmund Mortimer,

the intended beneficiary of the plot, who betrayed the conspiracy, after realising it had no chance of success. The three conspirators were arrested at on 31 July and taken to Southampton Castle for trial (local claims that the trial took place in what is now the Red Lion pub are, sadly, without foundation – it was built 75 years after the trial took place). Sir Thomas Gray was executed on 2 August and, three days later, Cambridge and Scrope were beheaded outside Southampton Bargate. Cambridge's brother died at Agincourt, so the conspirator's son Richard became Duke of York.

TEEN SPIRIT GOOD FOR NOTHING

Was Prince Henry really the dissolute young tearaway of Shakespeare's plays? The young Prince Hal of the Bard's *Henry IV* is portrayed as an irresponsible roisterer who later turned over a new leaf and set aside his wild ways.

Shakespeare leaned heavily on the 16th-century chronicles of Raphael Holinshed who writes of Henry: "for whereas aforetime he had made himself a companion unto misrulie mates of dissolute order and life, he now banished them all from his presence..." However, there's no contemporary evidence to support the claim that the Lord Chief Justice actually had Henry arrested, as occurs in Shakespeare's version of events. Furthermore, while still a prince, Henry campaigned diligently, if not always successfully, and served on the royal council.

Later, tensions with his father did arise, which were probably caused by Henry's desire for a greater role in government, not a lack of interest in it. It is likely this ambition that sparked the oft-repeated story that, while his father was sick, Prince Henry picked up the crown and tried it on for size.

KEEP YOUR HEAD
MAIN: Southampton Bargate, where two conspirators were beheaded, still stands
RIGHT: Shakespeare's Prince Hal tries his father's crown





ALL CHANGE
Having usurped
Richard II, Henry
Bolingbroke is crowned
King of England in 1399



UNITING THE LAND
Henry IV's 14-year rule
was turbulent, but he
handed a largely peaceful
kingdom to his son

A CLOSE CALL SCARS OF YOUTH

In July 1403, the young Prince Henry learned a valuable, if painful, lesson in the power of the longbow. Henry was in command of a division of his father's army at Shrewsbury where they faced a rebel army commanded by the famous Harry Hotspur of the Percy family. The battle began with a ferocious archery duel and soon the soldiers of both sides were being given a taste of what their French and Scottish enemies had endured for decades. Among the casualties was Prince Henry, who was hit below the eye by an arrow. Contemporary sources say he refused to leave the field and his division played a major part in the eventual royal victory.

The shaft of the arrow was later removed, but its barbed head remained firmly lodged in Henry's cheek. John Bradmore, the country's leading surgeon, was called in to help. Bradmore's treatment was risky and probably very painful for the patient. He made room to work by opening the wound with probes covered in rosewater-soaked linen, then used a corkscrew-like device to grip the arrow and slowly pull it out. To prevent infection he washed the wound daily with white wine and cleaned it with honey, which was known for its antiseptic qualities.

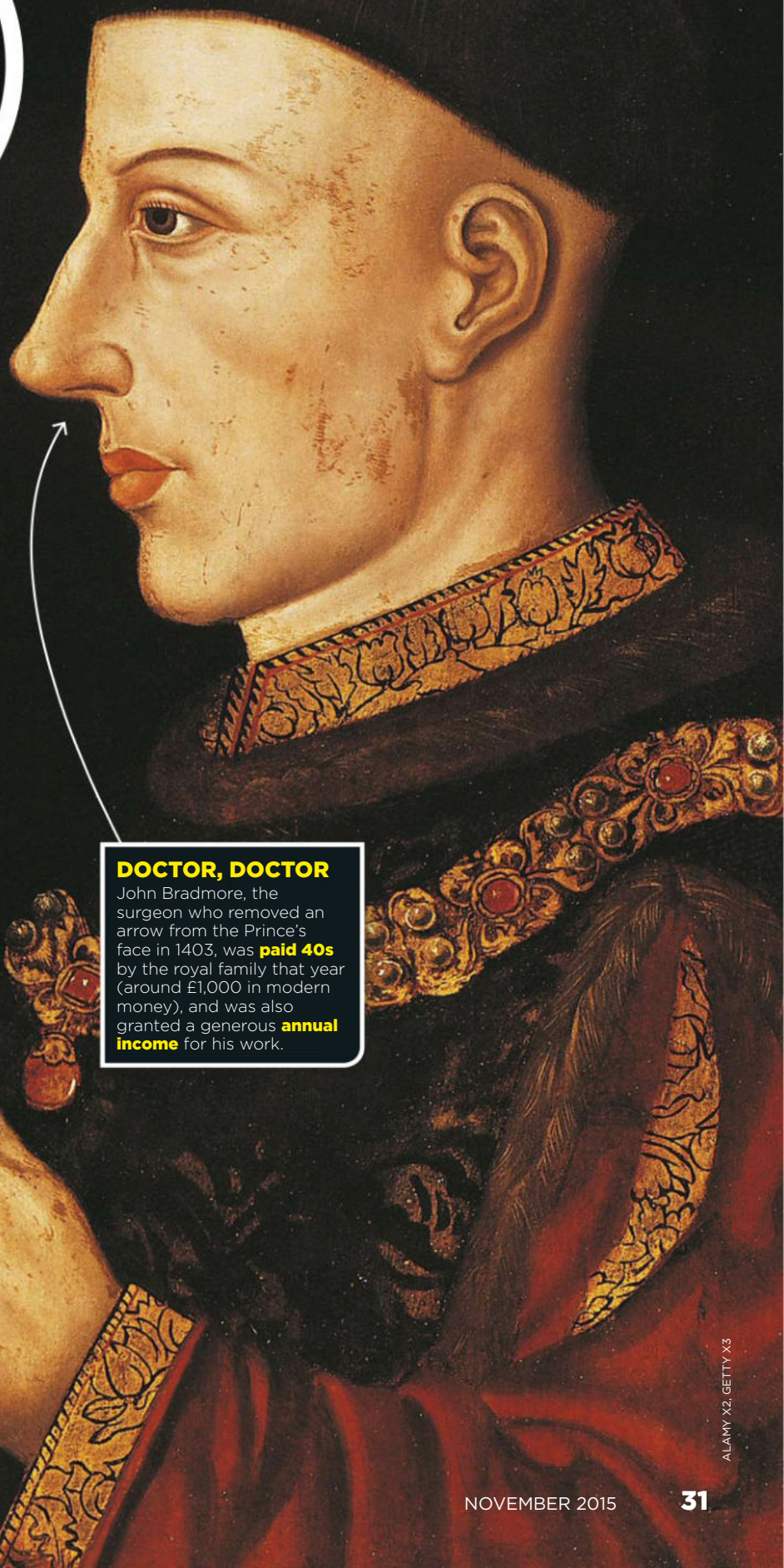
The Prince survived the operation, but was left with a large scar on his cheek. Speculating about the psychological effect that the wound may have had upon Henry, some writers have suggested that his near-death experience may have led him to go, temporarily, off the rails. What is significant is that the only contemporary portrait of Henry shows him in profile – a scarred face clearly didn't fit in with the medieval view of what an invincible monarch should look like.

IN PROFILE

This portrait was likely designed to conceal Henry V's battle scar

Henry V

**“HENRY V WAS A
SERIOUS, PIOUS
YOUNG MAN,
WHO COULD BE
RUTHLESS.”**



DOCTOR, DOCTOR

John Bradmore, the surgeon who removed an arrow from the Prince's face in 1403, was **paid 40s** by the royal family that year (around £1,000 in modern money), and was also granted a generous **annual income** for his work.

THE ROAD TO BATTLE

To get to Agincourt, Henry needed an army and plenty of money...

Just a year after becoming King, Henry V claimed the throne of France. It seems Henry was convinced that his claim was justified, but there was an added benefit. An overseas war would help unite the English nobility behind him and, if he was victorious, it would add lustre to the Lancastrian regime established by his father.

Meanwhile, France was in disarray. Its king, Charles VI, was mad and the country was split by civil war between two rival factions – the Armagnacs and the Burgundians. Henry entered into negotiations with both, receiving Burgundian ambassadors at Leicester and sending envoys to the French monarch.

The English demands were extensive and, in French eyes, excessive. Although Henry was prepared to set aside the claim to the throne

for the time being, he asked for huge territorial concessions, the 1.6 million crowns still unpaid from the ransom of John II (who had been captured at Poitiers in 1356) plus the hand of Charles's daughter, Catherine, in marriage together with a massive dowry.

The French responded with what they considered generous terms: marriage with Catherine, a reduced dowry of 600,000 crowns, and territorial concessions in Aquitaine. This was not enough for Henry, who resolved to press his claims through war. Henry now needed the support of his nobles, who would be supplying many of the men, and Parliament, who would be supplying much of the money. In the autumn of 1414, Henry convinced Parliament of his cause and it voted him tax at twice the traditional rate. This was a good start,

but Henry still had to bolster his war chest with substantial loans. Having secured the money he needed, in April 1415, Henry asked the Great Council of Nobles to sanction the proposed war. The nobles agreed and preparations for war began in earnest.

While the troops began to muster in Hampshire, Henry set about assembling the ships he needed to cross the Channel. A vast armada of ships of all shapes and sizes was cobbled together in the Solent. Some were requisitioned English merchant and fishing ships, while many more were hired in from Holland and Zeeland. On 11 August, the fleet set sail, with Henry aboard the newly launched *Trinity Royal*. Three days later, they disembarked at Chef de Caux, ten miles west of their target, Harfleur.

650

The number of ships used to transport Henry's army across the Channel

MINT CONDITION
A coin from Henry's reign shows the King crossing the waves

ALL'S FAIR
LEFT: Despite refusing France's terms, Henry and Catherine of Valois do eventually marry
BELOW: Henry and his troops cross the Channel

"THE ENGLISH DEMANDS WERE EXTENSIVE AND, IN FRENCH EYES, EXCESSIVE"

WAR SONGS

As well as the thousands of soldiers that Henry V took to across the Channel, he also had **15 musicians**.

SOLDIERS FOR HIRE RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The old feudal recruitment method, where nobles and knights supplied soldiers in return for land from the king, was unsuitable for an overseas war, because such service was limited to just 40 days a year. So, in order to raise forces for his French campaign, Henry dealt with contractors (often lords, knights or esquires) who agreed to provide a given number of troops for a set period of time in exchange for payment. The Duke of Gloucester, for example, was contracted to supply six knights, 193 men-at-arms and 600 archers. These contracts were known as 'indentures' because they were written in duplicate on the same sheet, which was then cut in half with a jagged or toothed line (hence 'indenture') so the two parts could later be fitted together to confirm they were genuine. About 12,000 troops were raised in this way, with three-quarters being archers, the rest, men-at-arms. Contrary to popular belief, only a small proportion of Henry's army at Agincourt was Welsh. Accounts suggest fewer than 400 Welsh archers were present at the battle.

THE REAL DEAL

An indenture contract, which records a muster of Welsh archers provided for Henry's campaign

ARTISTIC TRIUMPH Henry's men fight on at Harfleur, in this patriotic Victorian illustration



A TOUGH NUT HARFLEUR

Harfleur's strategic location at the mouth of the Seine made it a tempting target for the English army, but it proved much harder to capture than Henry had anticipated. Its defences included a thick surrounding wall with 26 towers, its gates were protected by barbicans and the defenders had flooded the low-lying areas around the town. The garrison was well-led and there were provisions to last a month, enough time for a French army to come to their relief.

Many of the English positions were in unsanitary areas and, soon, fever and

dysentery were rife among Henry's men.

As many as 2,000 died and a similar number had to be sent home. Attempts to undermine Harfleur's walls proved futile, but Henry's siege guns kept hammering away at the walls and town.

Eventually, following a number of parleys, the two sides agreed that the town would surrender if it wasn't relieved by 22 September. When no relief force turned up, the battered town finally submitted. At last, Henry had Harfleur, but it had cost him nearly a third of his army to get it.

HENRY'S HOLY LOAN

One of the loans Henry took in order to take his troops to France came from **England's bishops**, who gave him £44,000 (over **£20 million** in today's money).

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

A gathering of re-enactors at Portchester Castle, Hampshire, listens to Henry's rousing words



**“CHARLES SLEW
AT LEAST ONE OF
HIS OWN COMPANIONS
AND NEARLY KILLED
HIS BROTHER.”**

MIND MATTERS

Charles VI suffers the first, dramatic lapse of his mental health in 1392, as he attacks his own men

4

FRANCE IN TURMOIL

The French had enough problems, before Henry turned up

France's response to the challenge of Henry V wasn't helped by the fact that its own king, Charles VI, was prone to serious bouts of insanity. Charles was only 11 when he acceded the throne in 1380, and the country was, in effect, ruled by his uncles for nearly a decade. In 1388, he assumed full power and ruled fairly effectively for four years. But then, things changed.

In July 1392, he was travelling with his court through the forest of Le Mans when a page accidentally dropped a lance onto a helmet making a loud clanging noise. It was too

much for Charles, who contemporaries said had already been acting strangely. He drew his sword and bellowed “forward against the traitors” as he set about his companions.

44

The recorded number of episodes of insanity that Charles VI suffered during his reign

Before he was disarmed and wrestled to the ground, he'd slain at least one of his companions and nearly killed his brother, Louis of Orléans. Charles's uncle Philip of Burgundy assumed the regency on the spot, which alienated Louis and began a feud that would tear France apart for 75 years.

Charles VI's attacks would continue until his death in 1422. During one such episode in 1393, Charles couldn't remember his name or recognise his children, didn't know he was king

and fled in terror from his wife. Later spells saw him run around his palaces until he collapsed from exhaustion or refuse to wash for months on end, until his servants were forced to cut him out of his clothes. On other occasions, he would sit motionless for hours, refusing to let anyone touch him and, when he did move, he did it with great care. When asked why, he said he was made of glass.

Ironically, Charles's mental illness was passed down, through his daughter Catherine of Valois, to his grandson, Henry VI of England. His own inability to govern contributed to the Wars of the Roses.



ON THE RECORD
Court writer Christine de Pizan hands a book to Louis, Duke of Orléans



UNCLE PHIL
Philip 'The Bold' of Burgundy, who assumed Charles VI's throne during the King's insanity

BAD BLOOD A DIVIDED COUNTRY

The France of 1415 was not nearly as large as the country of today. The Duchies of Burgundy and Brittany would not officially become part of France until 1477 and 1532 respectively, while the English controlled much of Aquitaine in the south west, and Calais in the north. The King's domain was essentially restricted to Paris and the Ile-de-France, Champagne, Picardy and Normandy. Even so, under a strong leader, France's various duchies and regions would have been a match for the English. But that leadership wasn't there. King Charles VI's mental instability created a power vacuum that the leading families of France vied with each other to fill. The result was a disunity, of which the English were only too willing to take advantage.

When Philip of Burgundy's seized power after Charles's first breakdown in 1392, he split France down the middle. The King's brother, Louis, Duke of Orléans, resented Philip's regency and this led to a family feud, which carried on after their deaths. Although Charles VI, in a rare moment of sanity, confirmed his brother as regent in 1402, Louis's failings enabled Philip to regain control of France in 1404. He died soon after, but was succeeded by his eldest son, John 'the Fearless', who led the Burgundians against Orléans.

PLAYING KING
France's Charles VI is crowned in 1380, at just 11 years of age



ESCALATING CONFLICT CIVIL WAR

The rivalries in France came to a head in 1407, when Louis, the Duke of Orléans, was assassinated on the orders of the Burgundian, John 'the Fearless', and civil war broke out. Charles, the Duke of Orléans' heir, received backing from his father-in-law Bernard of Armagnac, which brought a new family into the mix. The battle for power in France was now between the Burgundian faction and the Armagnacs.

The Burgundians were strongest in the north, the Armagnacs south of the Loire. Both sides sought English help. In 1411, an English force under the Earl of Arundel helped the Burgundians raise the Siege of Paris, which was being attacked by the Armagnacs. In 1412, it was the Armagnacs who asked for Anglo-aid. The English duly sent a force of 4,000 men under the Duke of Clarence but, by the time it arrived, the rival French factions had signed a peace treaty. The Armagnacs were left having to buy off the English, who were plundering their way to Bordeaux.

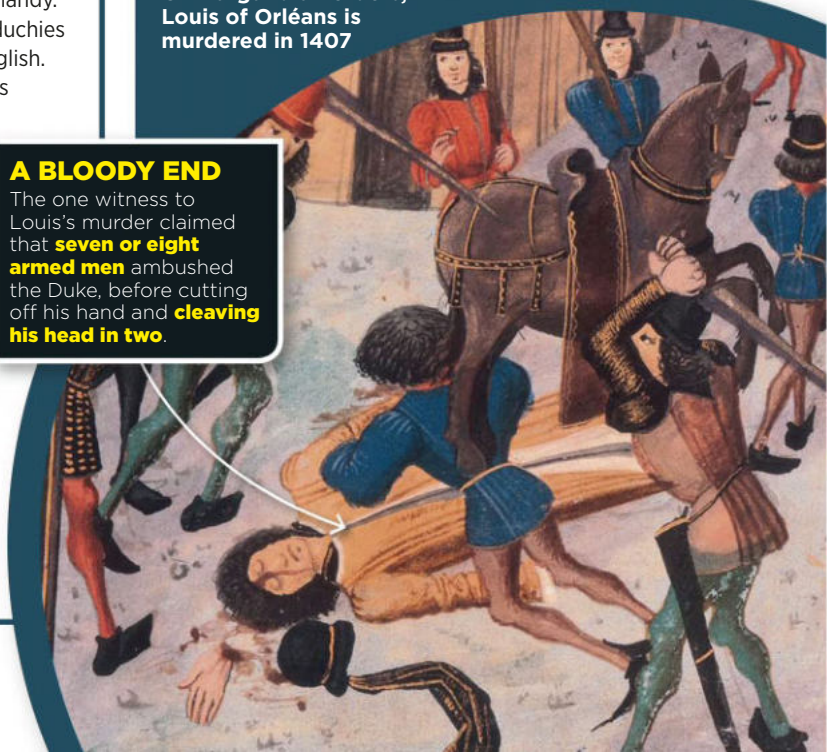
But the peace was short-lived. When riots broke out in Paris in May 1413, the citizens asked the Armagnacs to restore order. The Armagnacs soon drove the Burgundians out of the city. France was divided once more – a fact that hadn't gone unnoticed in England. By 1415, the Armagnacs controlled Paris, Normandy and the south, while the Burgundians were biding their time in the north east. When Henry V renewed hostilities, the Duke of Burgundy remained neutral. This meant that, while some Burgundians united with their enemy against the foreign invader, it was essentially an Armagnac army that met Henry at Agincourt.

After John 'the Fearless' was killed by the Armagnacs in 1419, the Burgundians allied with English. The union made further English conquests possible but, when it ended in 1435, England's days in France were numbered.

IN FOR THE KILL
On Burgundian orders, Louis of Orléans is murdered in 1407

A BLOODY END

The one witness to Louis's murder claimed that **seven or eight armed men** ambushed the Duke, before cutting off his hand and **cleaving his head in two**.





5

WELL EQUIPPED

*Both sides were armed
and highly dangerous...*

Whereas Henry's army had been raised through the indenture system (see Recruitment Drive, page 35) the French army was largely made up of members of the aristocracy and their feudal tenants.

In theory, all French men could have been called up for service through a general levy known as the *arrière-ban*, but this was abandoned. Instead, they favoured either cash payments, or the provision of troops by specific towns or areas. Because they were fighting in their own country, the French were seldom short of men. Keeping them supplied, organised and disciplined was, however, quite another matter.

Both armies contained similar types of soldiers, but the actual make-up of the two forces was markedly different. Although it had a substantial contingent of archers and crossbowmen and some mounted troops, the majority of the French army was made up of men-at-arms, led by knights who fought on foot. Protective gear ranged from full-plate armour for the knights down to just a helmet and, perhaps, a padded jacket for the archers and lowlier men-at-arms. The English army differed in that, while it also had its share of dismounted knights and men-at-arms, as many as 75 per cent of its troops may have been archers.



FUTILE FIRE

The besieged town of Orléans is hounded by gunfire, but it does not submit

HARNESS

A suit of well-made plate armour could turn the men inside into medieval superheroes, all-but giving them the power of invincibility.

SWORD

A warrior's double-edged sword would have weighed around a kilo. That might not seem like much but, as the knight would already be carrying upwards of 30kgs in his harness, the sword needed to be light enough to wield.

COFFIN CREATION
This rubbing is taken from the tomb of an Agincourt knight, Thomas de Camoys, which is housed in St George's Church, Trotton, West Sussex

BASCINET

This helmet is all about diminishing arrow-damage - its pointed profile helps deflect the missiles, while tiny sight slits above the eyes and below the nose, plus the air holes on just one side, keep targets to a minimum.



GAUNTLETS

A knight had to be able to move his wrists in combat, but the joints also needed protection, so plate gauntlets were essential.



THE RISE OF THE GUN

Although he will always be popularly linked with the longbow, Henry V was an expert in siege warfare. He used artillery against Harfleur as well as in his campaign to conquer Normandy and, by the 1420s, cannons and bombards were regularly used to batter down walls of castles and towns. Guns also appeared on the battlefield, and the English may have used some crude, stone-firing cannon as early as 1346 at the Battle of Crécy. In the 1440s, the French invested in artillery and built up stocks of light, mobile guns for use in the field. They now had a weapon to counter the English longbow, and their guns played a key role in the victories of Formigny (1450) and Castillon (1453).

LETHAL LONGBOW

The English bow (it wasn't called a longbow at the time) had an effective range of up to 200 metres, and a skilled bowman could shoot as many as 12 arrows a minute. While it's sometimes said the bow was invented in Wales – they were certainly used to great effect there in the early medieval period – similar bows dating from late-Roman times have also been found on Scandinavian sites.

BOWSTRING

Made from strands of twisted hemp, the string was kept in a dry pouch until it was needed.

SHAFT

Normally made of ash or poplar, which was light and fast-growing.

FLETCHING

The feathering at the end of an arrow stabilises it in flight. Each arrow included three goose feathers, which were glued and tied to the shaft.

BACK-BREAKING WORK

Operating a longbow was hugely **physically demanding**. Henry's archers would likely have suffered **repetitive stress injuries** of the shoulder and lower spine.

STAVE

Most staves were made of yew. Spanish yew was the best for longbows and, when supplies ran out, the timber was imported from Italy. Its length depended on the height of the archer.

ARROWHEAD

The iron bodkin arrowheads had the power to pierce plate armour.

80

The maximum pulling power, in kilograms, of an English bow



KETTLE HELMET

So-called because, when turned upside down, it both looked like and could be used as a cooking pot, the kettle helmet was the common choice for infantry soldiers. Its brim offered good protection against falling missiles.

“AS MANY AS 75% OF ENGLAND'S TROOPS MAY HAVE BEEN ARCHERS”



TIMELINE Henry V: life of

From the son of an earl to King of England and a celebrated war hero, Henry's



16 SEPTEMBER 1386 or 1387

The future Henry V is born in the gatehouse of Monmouth Castle, the son of Henry Bolingbroke, Earl of Derby and Mary de Bohun.

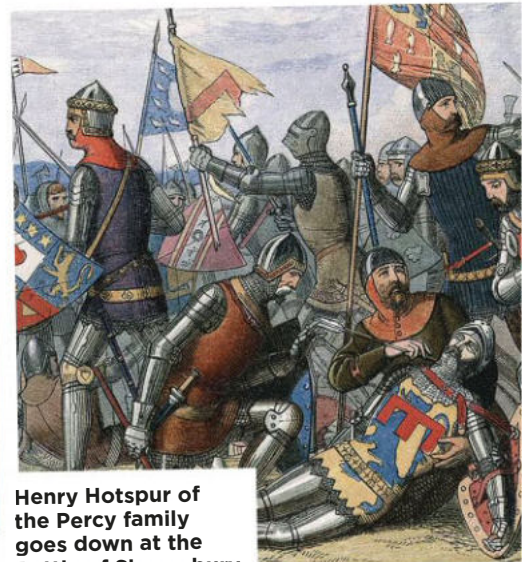


30 SEPTEMBER 1399

After overthrowing his cousin, Richard II, Henry Bolingbroke is acknowledged by Parliament as King Henry IV. He is crowned on 13 October and his 13-year-old son is named Prince of Wales two days later.

21 JULY 1403

Henry, Prince of Wales, helps his father defeat a rebellion led by the powerful Percy family at the Battle of Shrewsbury, but is nearly killed when he is struck in the face by an arrow.



Henry Hotspur of the Percy family goes down at the Battle of Shrewsbury



15 AUGUST 1416

At the Battle of the Seine, Henry's brother John (above) breaks a French naval blockade of Harfleur helping to establish England's dominance in the Channel.

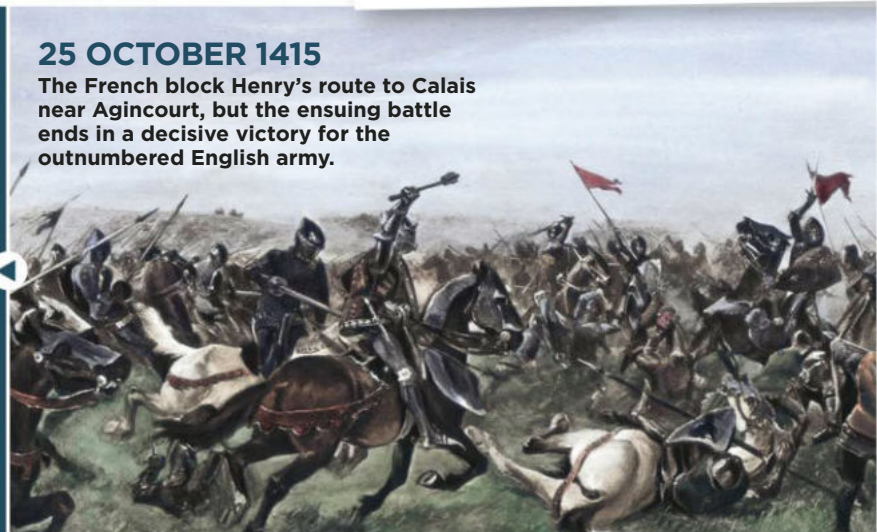
16 NOVEMBER 1415

After spending two weeks in Calais, Henry heads home. He crosses to Dover and heads for London, which he enters in triumph a week later.



25 OCTOBER 1415

The French block Henry's route to Calais near Agincourt, but the ensuing battle ends in a decisive victory for the outnumbered English army.



1 AUGUST 1417

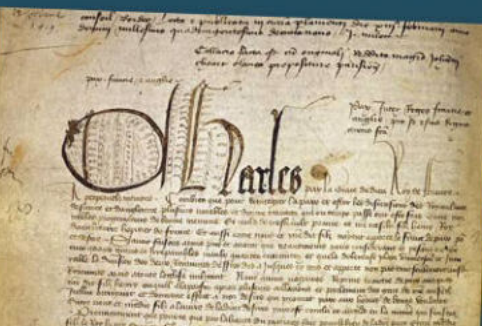
Henry V lands near Harfleur to begin his conquest of Normandy. At the beginning of September, Caen is the first town to be captured, and others soon follow.

19 JANUARY 1419

Rouen surrenders to the English after a five-month siege. Henry V is now master of Normandy and, by July, his forces have moved on to threaten Paris.

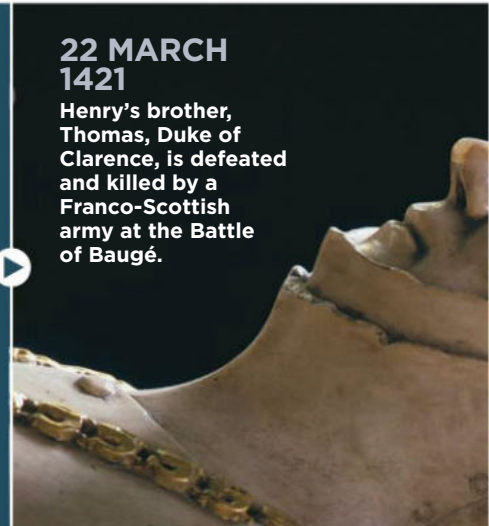
21 MAY 1420

The Treaty of Troyes (below) is drawn up, in which Henry is betrothed to Charles VI's daughter, Catherine, and is recognised as heir to the French throne. However, fighting with the supporters of Charles VI's son continues.



22 MARCH 1421

Henry's brother, Thomas, Duke of Clarence, is defeated and killed by a Franco-Scottish army at the Battle of Baugé.



a warrior king

life was quite the ride...



20 MARCH 1413

King Henry IV dies. His son is crowned Henry V in April and soon revives the old English claim to the throne of France.



19 NOVEMBER 1414

It is announced that, in pursuit of his claim to the French throne, Henry V intends to invade France. Parliament votes to grant him a taxation at twice the normal rate to help fund military operations.

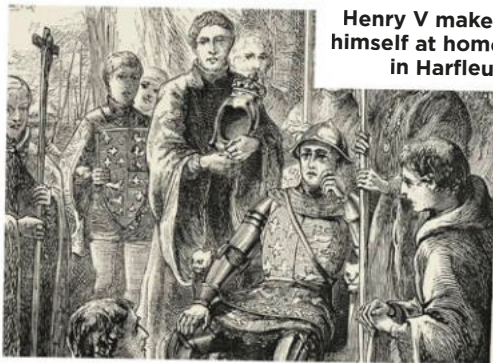
3 AUGUST 1415

Sir Thomas Grey is executed at Southampton for his part in a plot to murder Henry V. His fellow conspirators, the Earl of Cambridge and Lord Scrope, are beheaded two days later.



8 OCTOBER 1415

After leaving troops to garrison Harfleur, and sending home his sick soldiers, Henry sets off with the rest of his army on a march north-eastward to English-held Calais.



Henry V makes himself at home in Harfleur

22 SEPTEMBER 1415

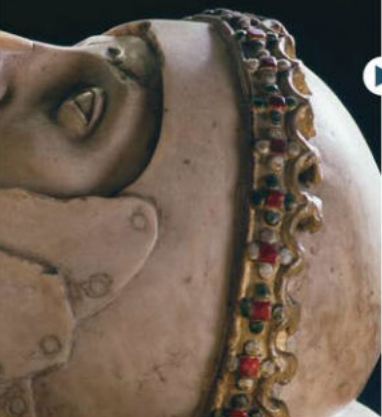
After a stubborn 35-day defence, Harfleur agrees to surrender to Henry V, who enters the town the following day.

14 AUGUST 1415

Henry V's invasion force of about 12,000 men lands in Normandy, having sailed from Hampshire. It moves on to lay siege to the important and well-defended port of Harfleur.



Thomas's effigy lies in St Michael's Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral



Crowds gather to witness Henry V's funeral procession

31 AUGUST 1422

Henry V dies of dysentery at Vincennes, near Paris. He is succeeded by his infant son, Henry VI, who is just nine months old.

21 OCTOBER 1422

Charles VI of France dies and Henry VI of England is proclaimed King of France. However, half of the country remains unconquered. War continues for over 30 years before the English are evicted from all of France (save Calais).



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BAND OF BROTHERS
Fighters get into the thick of the action at a re-enactment of the Battle of Agincourt

TRAINED TO KILL

Archery practice was **required by law** in England as early as the 13th century. As such, the peasant-troops were highly skilled and **lethal, but also cheap.**

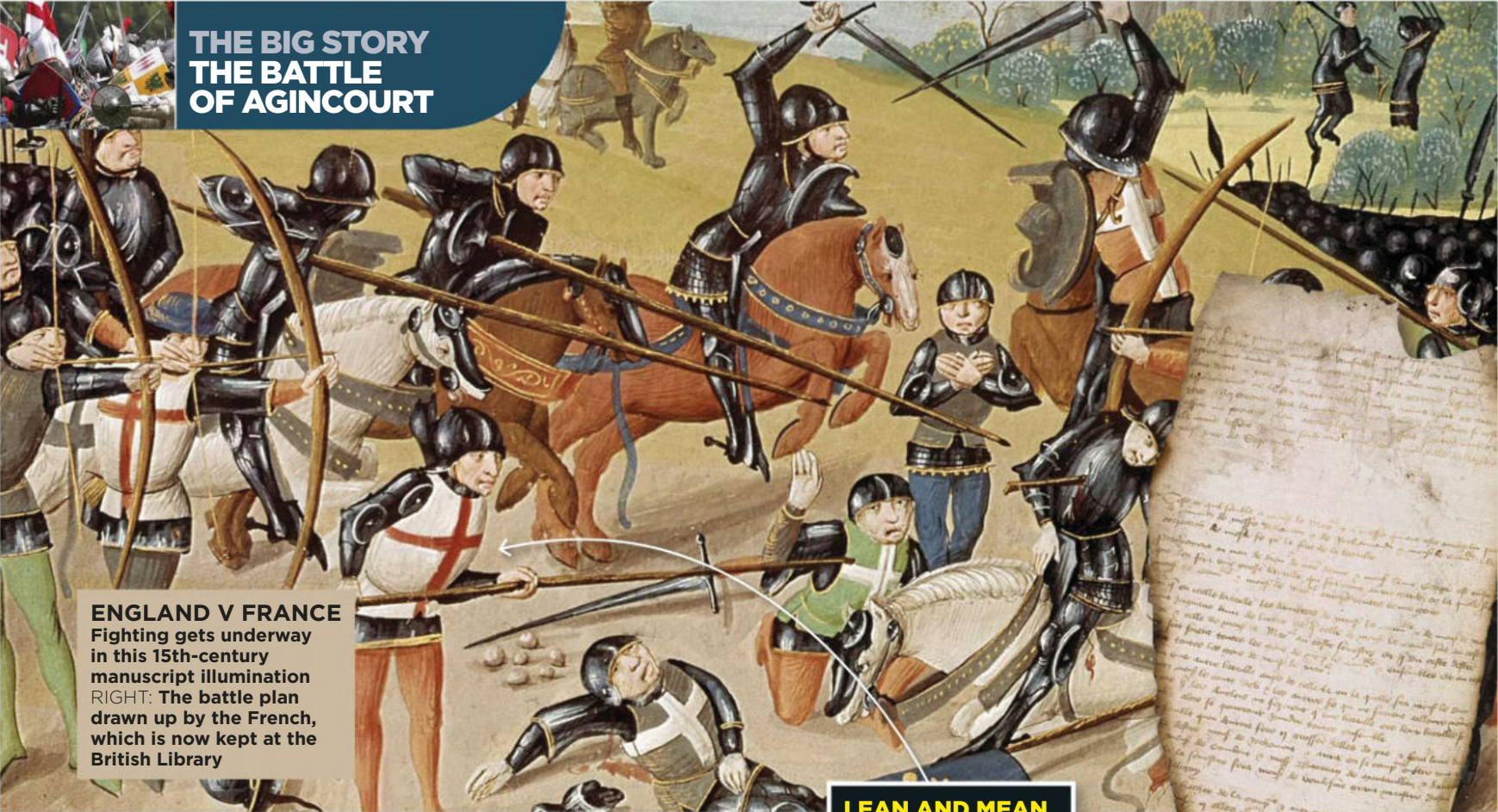
THE BIG STORY
THE BATTLE
OF AGINCOURT



THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

On 25 October 1415, around 7,000 English troops won a momentous victory on French soil. In the 600 years since, the events of the day have all-but become legend. Read on to discover what really happened...

THE BIG STORY THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT



ENGLAND V FRANCE
Fighting gets underway
in this 15th-century
manuscript illumination
RIGHT: The battle plan
drawn up by the French,
which is now kept at the
British Library

LEAN AND MEAN
Henry's exhausted
troops had marched
260 miles in 17 days to
reach Agincourt, on only
eight days' food rations,

Crossing a muddy field in Picardy, an elderly, white-haired man in plate armour rode in front of a small English army. He bellowed an order and hurled his baton into the air as a signal. The man was Sir Thomas Erpingham, it was the morning of St Crispin's Day 1415, and the place was Agincourt. One of the most famous battles in history was about to begin.

The English were not in the best shape to fight that grey day in late October. A little over a fortnight earlier, they had set off from the Normandy town of Harfleur, which they had just captured from the French, to march to the English base at Calais. But now their way was blocked by a much larger French army, which had shadowed them all the way. The English were tired, hungry and many were suffering from dysentery – a deadly disease that had already claimed thousands of their comrades.

RISKY MANOEUVRE

In fact, the gruelling march had not been strictly necessary. The English could have travelled by boat and, when the English leader King Henry V announced his intention to march, his councillors tried to dissuade him from the risky manoeuvre. But Henry had made up his mind. He had invaded France in support of his claim to the French throne and he wanted to make a point. By marching through France, he would demonstrate that he was a force to be reckoned with, and that his claim had to be taken seriously. Now he'd have to prove it.

Henry drew up his small army, perhaps 7,000 men in all, where the Calais road passed through fields that were hemmed in on both

sides by thick woodland. Rain had been pouring down for several days, turning the newly-ploughed fields into seas of mud.

Henry's men-at-arms were drawn up in three 'battles' or divisions, with the Duke of York in command on the right, Lord de Camoys on the left and the King himself in the centre. The archers were probably mostly deployed on the wings, with some stationed between the divisions of men-at-arms. Each archer carried a sharp wooden stake, which he hammered into the ground in front of him as a barrier against cavalry. With the army's flanks protected by the thick woods, it was strong a defensive position.

As they waited for the enemy to make their move, his soldiers carried out their customary pre-battle ritual, making the sign of the cross on the ground and taking a small piece of earth

within bowshot range of them.

When Erpingham shouted his order (probably "now strike") and threw his baton, the archers pulled up their stakes, the men-at-arms raised their banners and the whole English army picked its way through the mud towards the enemy. When they got to within about 200 metres of the French they stopped, the archers replanted their stakes and started shooting volleys of arrows into the tightly-packed enemy ranks. The plan worked perfectly. Under the pressure of fire, the French – who were deployed in three divisions, one behind the other – moved forward to attack.

THE HOME TEAM

The French had given the battle some thought, and devised a battle plan, which still survives

**"WHEN THE FRENCH SHOWED
NO SIGN OF MOVING, HENRY
HAD TO TAKE ACTION."**

in their mouths. But 1,000 metres away, the large French army showed no sign of moving. Henry realised he had to take action. Retreat to Harfleur wasn't an option but, if he stayed where he was, his enemies would just get stronger as more troops arrived, while his own army would weaken as hunger and disease took their toll. In order to goad the French into attack, the decision was taken to march

in the British Library. Put simply, the idea was to dismount most of their men-at-arms and knights, and support them with missile fire from archers and crossbowmen on the flanks and to the front. Some of the men-at-arms would remain mounted and, while the body of the army attacked on foot, they would ride round to attack the English archers on the flanks. It was sound enough, in theory.

BARD'S EYE VIEW

William Shakespeare's *Henry V*

Written in 1599 at the end of Elizabeth's reign, *Henry V* is, arguably, Shakespeare's most patriotic play. His chief sources were probably the chronicles of a Tudor historian named Ralph Holinshed, together with an anonymous Elizabethan play called *The Famous Victories of Henry V*.

The Bard's Henry is very much the model king: firm, courageous, inspiring and, in his wooing of Princess Catherine (a completely fictitious scene), romantic. In his St Crispin's Day speech, Henry is the personification of England's view of itself – the small island that battles courageously against seemingly impossible odds. Shakespeare's Henry is also ruthless, not least in his threat to slaughter everyone in Harfleur if the town doesn't surrender, although Elizabethans would have been far less shocked by this than a modern audience (in 1575, the English had killed everyone they found on Rathlin Island, 600 men, women and children, to the approval of the Queen herself).

The Battle of Agincourt is the centrepiece of the whole play. The Treaty of Troyes and Henry's marriage to Catherine of Valois are seen as the direct result of the battle and it's as if the hard campaigning and siege warfare of Henry's second, decisive invasion of France never took place. Shakespeare pokes fun at the arrogant, overconfident French and vastly exaggerates both the size of their army and the losses they suffered in the battle. Meanwhile, he minimises the English casualties, putting them at just 29 dead of which only four were "of name". Henry's famous archers don't feature in the play at all and neither do their weapons. Swords, cudgels, daggers, pikes and even guns all get mentioned, but the longbow is nowhere to be found.

**GOD FOR HARRY, ENGLAND,
AND SAINT GEORGE!**

Mark Rylance (*Wolf Hall*) takes the lead in *Henry V*, at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London



THREE HENRYS The Elizabethan play on the screen...

Laurence Olivier (1944)

Filmed during World War II at a time when the exploits of the Few in the Battle of Britain were fresh in the mind, and released at the time of the D-Day landings, Olivier's production was intended to boost morale on the Home Front. It's unashamedly patriotic with stunning battle scenes and a memorable score by William Walton.

Kenneth Branagh (1989)

Branagh's Henry is blunt, tough and energetic, with an ability to inspire the men serving under him. There's no pomp and pageantry in this gritty adaptation, and the extensive battle scenes are full of mud, blood, tears and sweat. Henry V will always be a patriotic play, but Branagh ensures the cost of that patriotism is not overlooked.

Tom Hiddleston (2012)

Hiddleston gives us an introspective Henry, racked with self-doubt. The TV format allows him to play the role in a way that would never be possible on the stage and, rather than roaring out his pre-battle speech to a packed army, he delivers it in an almost conversational manner, to a small group of followers.



PROPAGANDA

Olivier made this film on **Winston Churchill's request**. A lot of historical accuracy was sacrificed in the making of what some see as a piece of propaganda.





THE BIG STORY THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

In practice, the plan was problematic. One of the issues was the ground itself. The narrowness of the battlefield, thanks to the thick woods on each side, meant that there simply wasn't the room to make the planned flanking movements against Henry's archers, who were, in any case, protected by the wooden stakes they'd brought. Furthermore, they had no clear commander-in-chief, so there was little discipline. Eager nobles and knights barged past the French archers and crossbowmen to reach the action. Indeed, eventually there were so many noblemen in the front line that, it's said, their banners flapped in everyone's faces and had to be furled and taken to the rear.

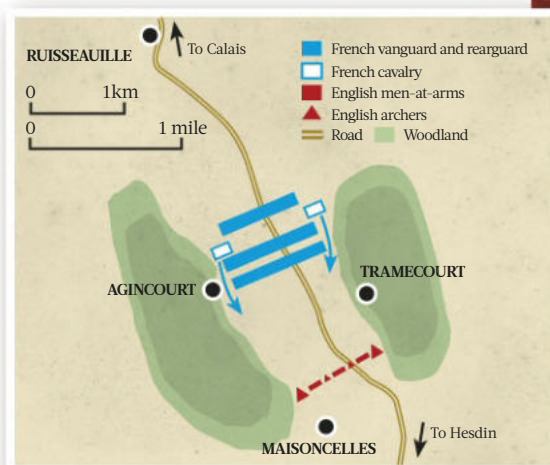
ARROW STORM

As the French advanced, those mounted troops who were in position rode forward to attack, but the result was a fiasco. Met by a hail of arrows, the horsemen were slowed down by the boggy ground before being totally halted by the pointed stakes the archers had planted. While a good piece of armour would keep out an arrow shot (unless fired from the closest range), with thousands of missiles falling every minute, some of them were bound to find a weak spot – whether an unprotected part of the body or the eye slit of a visor.

The horses suffered particularly badly. Some keeled over, tumbling their riders into the quagmire while others, maddened by wounds, galloped wildly across the battlefield. Soon, the French mounted troops were streaming



MARCH TO AGINCOURT
The routes the two armies took before battle



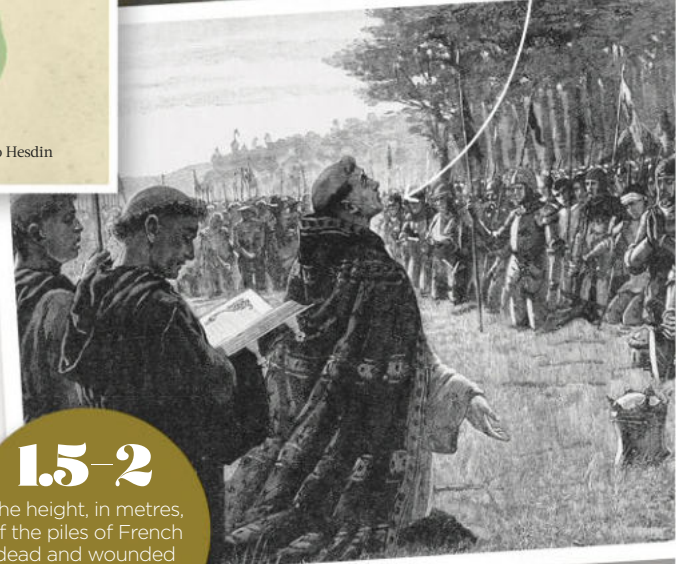
PLAN OF ATTACK
Each side's starting positions



GOD ON SIDE

After the battle, it was widely believed that God had been **on Henry's side**. Several French soldiers even claimed to have seen **St George** appear on the field, fighting with the English.

“SOME HORSES, MADDENED BY WOUNDS, GALLOPED WILDLY ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD”



1.5–2

The height, in metres, of the piles of French dead and wounded that accumulated at the English line

THE KILL COMMAND

Was Henry's order a war crime?

A knight who was taken prisoner in medieval battle could normally expect to be well treated by his captors. He was worth looking after, as he could be ransomed back to his own side for a good sum of money and in, any case, the captors would hope for similarly good treatment if they were taken prisoner themselves. King John II of France was treated as an honoured guest by the English after his capture at Poitiers in 1356, but if the hundreds of knights who surrendered to the English at Agincourt were hoping for similar treatment, some of them were in for a shock. Concerned about the large numbers of captured

Frenchmen milling about behind his army, and alarmed about a possible final French attack, Henry V ordered their immediate execution and a company of archers under the command of a squire were sent to do the grisly work. The slaughter stopped when it became clear that the French were retreating, but not before hundreds had been killed (and hundreds of potential ransoms lost). Some modern writers have attempted to portray the killings as a 'war crime' but contemporaries did not see it that way. Instead, they blamed the French for forcing him to do it by refusing to accept their defeat.

back in confusion – straight into the first division of dismounted men, which was now closing in on the English line. Struggling through the mud, which had been further churned up by the hooves of their comrades' horses they, too, came under fire from the English archers on the flanks, causing them to bunch up as they advanced. Matters were made worse by the fact that, as they approached the English, the area between the two woods narrowed, further compressing their ranks. By the time they reached the English lines they were exhausted, disorganised and so crowded that some were unable to wield their weapons properly. Even so, through sheer weight of numbers, they temporarily pushed the English back.

The Duke of York was killed – either from a wound to the head or from “heat and pressing” as one account put it. Henry came under attack,



DEAD HEAT

The suits of plate armour were stiflingly hot – so much so that one English knight, Edward, Duke of York may have **died from heat exposure**.

ACTIONS AND WORDS

MAIN: Hand-to-hand combat breaks out on the field, while English arrows continue to fly
LEFT: Henry's troops pray in thanks after their victory



receiving a blow that dented his helmet and struck off part of the coronet he was wearing. Some accounts say he saved the life of the wounded Duke of Gloucester,

straddling his prostrate body and fighting off his attackers. Somehow the invaders' line held.

By now, the English archers had loosed all their arrows and they joined in the hand-to-hand fighting, many using the mallets they'd used to drive in their stakes as weapons. As they battered the armour of their French enemies, who were hampered by the crush, the second French division tried to enter the fray. Anyone who lost his footing had little chance of getting up again and soon the bodies were piling up, some dead, some wounded, some simply unable to move. One of these was the Duke of Orléans, who was pulled from under a pile of bodies, recognised as someone worth saving and sent as a prisoner to the rear of the English line.

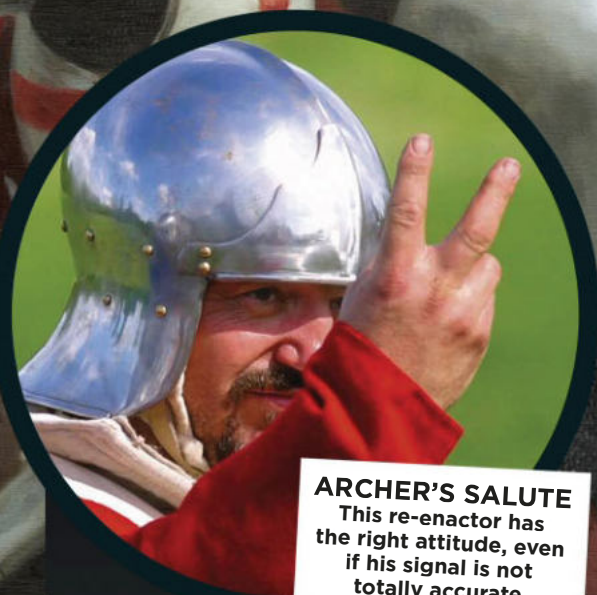
Shattered and, with their chance of retreat cut off by the mass of men behind them, more and more French nobles, knights and men-at-arms in the front ranks tried to surrender to the English. Not all were successful. The Duke

of Alençon, the man credited by some with denting the King's helmet, tried to surrender to Henry himself, only to be cut down by one of the King's bodyguards.

TACTICAL MASSACRE

Within two hours of the start of the battle it was clear that the English had won, and the French began streaming back in retreat. However, the third division of the French army remained uncommitted. Concerned that it might still join the battle and alarmed by reports that his baggage train had come under attack, Henry gave his infamous order that the substantial number of French prisoners who were being kept behind his lines should be put to the sword (see The Kill Command, left).

Only the richest and most valuable were spared, for ransom purposes. Among the victims was the Duke of Brabant, a Burgundian who had arrived late to the battlefield. Keen to join the action, he had hastily dressed in borrowed armour and an improvised surcoat made from a trumpeter's flag. When the order to kill the prisoners was issued, his throat was cut by the English, who were unable to



ARCHER'S SALUTE

This re-enactor has the right attitude, even if his signal is not totally accurate

FLICKING THE VS

The archer's rude gesture of choice?

It's often claimed that the 'V' sign originated in the Hundred Years War when English archers, believing that the French cut off the fingers of any bowmen they captured, would waggle two digits at their enemies to show that they were ready and able to shoot. It's a great story but, unfortunately, there's not a scrap of evidence to support it. Having said that, there's no denying that English soldiers were well-known for their bad language, and the French dubbed them 'Goddams' after the oath they kept hearing them utter.



THE BIG STORY THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

ascertain his high status and ransom value from his appearance.

The slaughter was halted when it was clear that the French third division would not join the fight. Many hundreds had been killed, perhaps more, but as many as 1,500 prisoners survived to be taken to Calais. Many were ransomed there, others were sent to England. Among these was the Duke of Orléans, the Armagnac leader who had been pulled from a pile of bodies. He was well treated in England but, as he was the head of the Armagnacs and in the line of succession to the French throne, the English refused to ransom him. He spent the next 24 years in England, consoling himself by writing poetry.

VICTORY MARCH

All that remained was to count the dead and ransack the French camp. English losses had been relatively light. It is not known how many ordinary soldiers died, but the Duke of York and the young Earl of Suffolk were the only casualties "of name" as Shakespeare put it. French losses were disastrous. As many as 6,000 may have died, including three dukes and eight counts, while many nobles had been taken prisoner. Henry V could resume his journey to Calais now the desperate march had turned into a triumphant procession. 📍

ALAMY XI, GETTY XI

3,069

The number of French knights said to have been among the casualties at Agincourt

WHY WAS AGINCOURT IMPORTANT?

Henry's triumph commanded great respect

In military terms, Agincourt achieved very little. No territories were gained and, despite victory, Henry was no nearer to the crown of France. But politically and psychologically it was another matter.

Had Henry gone home after Harfleur, his campaign would probably have been something of an expensive anti-climax. But Agincourt changed everything. By defeating the might of France in battle, Henry earned enormous prestige for himself and for the Lancastrian dynasty. An increasingly united England saw the victory as evidence of God's approval of the relatively new Lancastrian regime, while foreign courts now saw Henry as a force to be reckoned with. Sigismund, the Holy Roman Emperor, signed a treaty with England, in which he acknowledged Henry's claim to the throne of France.



LAST TO FALL
When the Siege of Rouen ended, it marked Henry's Norman conquest

Agincourt also made the country more willing, for the time being at least, to pay for further campaigns against the French. This became particularly important when, after he tried and failed to build on his victory through diplomacy, Henry decided conquest was the answer. In 1417, Henry was able to mount a full-scale invasion of Normandy and, while he will always be remembered for his victory at Agincourt, it was this campaign that best demonstrates his abilities as a warrior king. He made extensive use of ships to protect, transport and supply his men, not only across the Channel but up the rivers of Normandy as well. He had also built up a powerful train of siege artillery, which he used to batter the towns of Normandy into submission. When Rouen surrendered in January 1419, Henry was undisputed master of the region.

GET HOOKED

Keep your Agincourt journey going for its anniversary – there's much more to see, read and watch

LOCATIONS



A figure of an archer marks the site of the battle

▲ AGINCOURT

There's no substitute for walking the ground where the action took place. Agincourt (Azincourt in French) is an hour's drive from Calais and there's a visitor centre on site. www.azincourt-medieval.fr

ALSO VISIT

- Portchester Castle, Hampshire www.english-heritage.org.uk
- The Sinews of War: Arms and Armour from the Age of Agincourt, Wallace Collection, London www.wallacecollection.org

BOOKS



1415 AGINCOURT: A NEW HISTORY (2015)

by Anne Curry

This updated re-release of Curry's classic account of the battle names each of the English soldiers that fought.



THE LONGBOW (2013)

by Mike Loades

Find out all you need to know about Henry V's lethal weapon of mass destruction, with Loades' informative, illustrated guide.

ALSO READ

- Azincourt (2008) a historical novel by Bernard Cornwell
- Conquest: the English Kingdom of France 1417-1450 (2010) by Juliet Barker
- Armour of the English Knight 1400-1450 (2015) by Tobias Capwell

ON SCREEN

AGINCOURT600

Check out the Agincourt600 website for information and articles about the battle, as well as places to visit and Agincourt-related events: www.agincourt600.com



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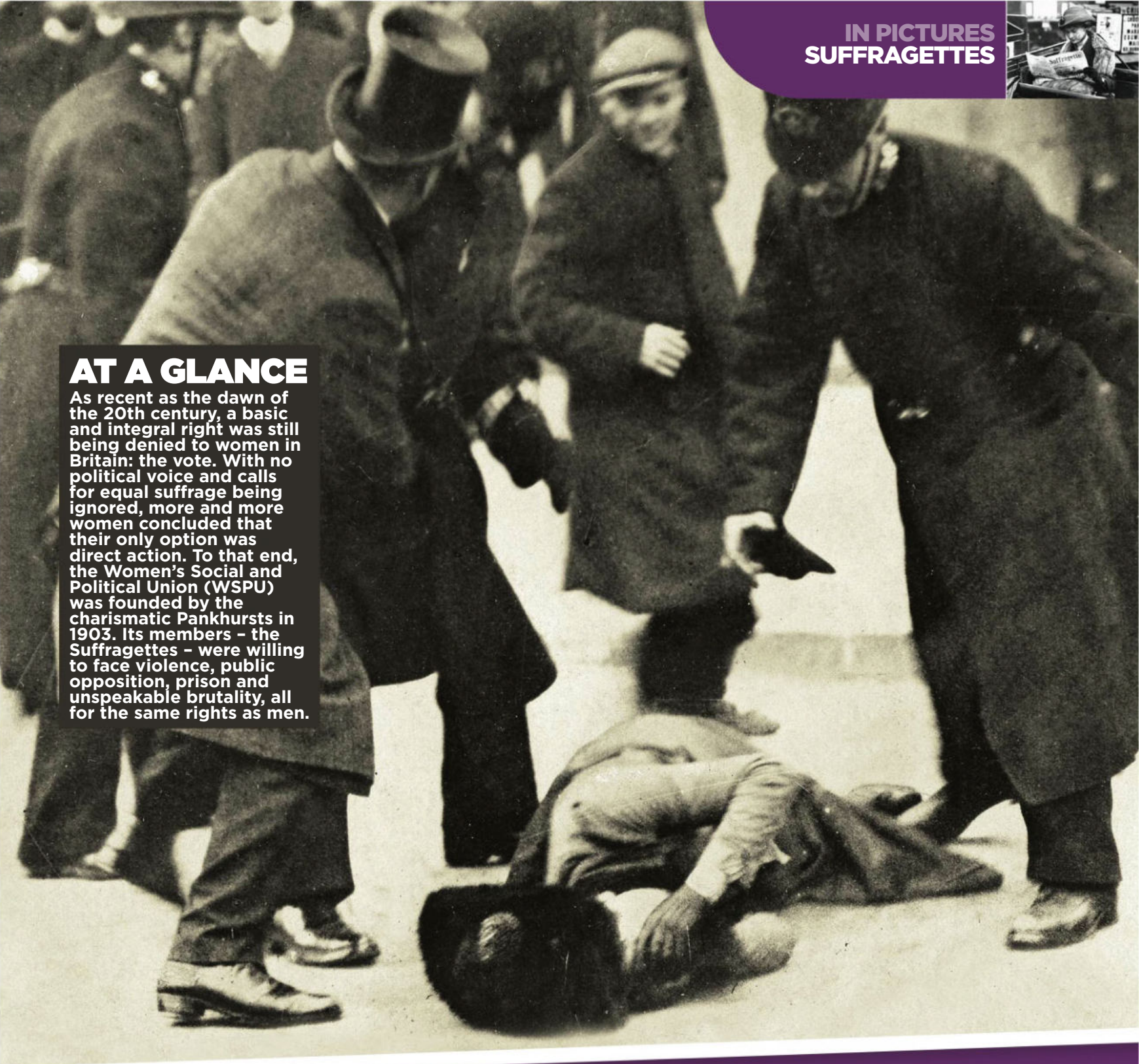
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AT A GLANCE

As recent as the dawn of the 20th century, a basic and integral right was still being denied to women in Britain: the vote. With no political voice and calls for equal suffrage being ignored, more and more women concluded that their only option was direct action. To that end, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was founded by the charismatic Pankhursts in 1903. Its members - the Suffragettes - were willing to face violence, public opposition, prison and unspeakable brutality, all for the same rights as men.



SUFFRAGETTES: DEEDS NOT WORDS

How ordinary women were prepared to go to extreme measures as foot soldiers in a war for equality and the right to vote

GETTY X2



VOTES FOR WOMEN!

Led by its vocal leader Emmeline Pankhurst (above), the WSPU distances itself both from other suffrage groups – which they consider overly moderate – and the social-reforming Labour Party for not prioritising the extension of the vote. WSPU Suffragettes organise their own public disruptions and demonstrations but many are broken up by police, resulting in arrests. These early frustrations lead to the group's later militancy. Pictured right, Vera Wentworth endures mocking from young boys for advertising a gathering in London with her slogan-emblazoned dress.



MASS GATHERING

On 21 June 1908, some 300,000 people descend on Hyde Park in the WSPU's largest event. At the front is Annie Kennedy, wearing a sash with the WSPU colours of purple, white and green, representing dignity, purity and hope. In terms of publicity, 'Women's Sunday' is a rousing success, but it fails to convince the new Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith.

VOTES FOR WOMEN
Procession from
Victoria Embankment to Hyde Park.
Assembles 12-30 p.m., Starts 1-30 p.m.
Sunday, June 21st



FIGHT THE POWER

In a new century, women from across Britain came together to demand an ancient right – a democratic voice...



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

By-elections are furiously fought battlegrounds for the WSPU, where it lobbies heavily against candidates for the governing Liberal Party. Suffragettes, such as this 'hit squad' in the 1909 Cleveland by-election, race to a constituency, hire out public rooms as their headquarters and make life as difficult as possible for Liberal MPs.



DRAWING A LINE

Wearing mock-prison outfits, Suffragettes write slogans on the pavement in chalk, along with details of their next 'Women's Parliament'. Held at Caxton Hall, the first 'Parliament' in 1907 ended with 400 women marching the few hundred yards to the Houses of Parliament. Their progress blocked by mounted police, 51 were arrested.



FIERCE AS DRAGONS

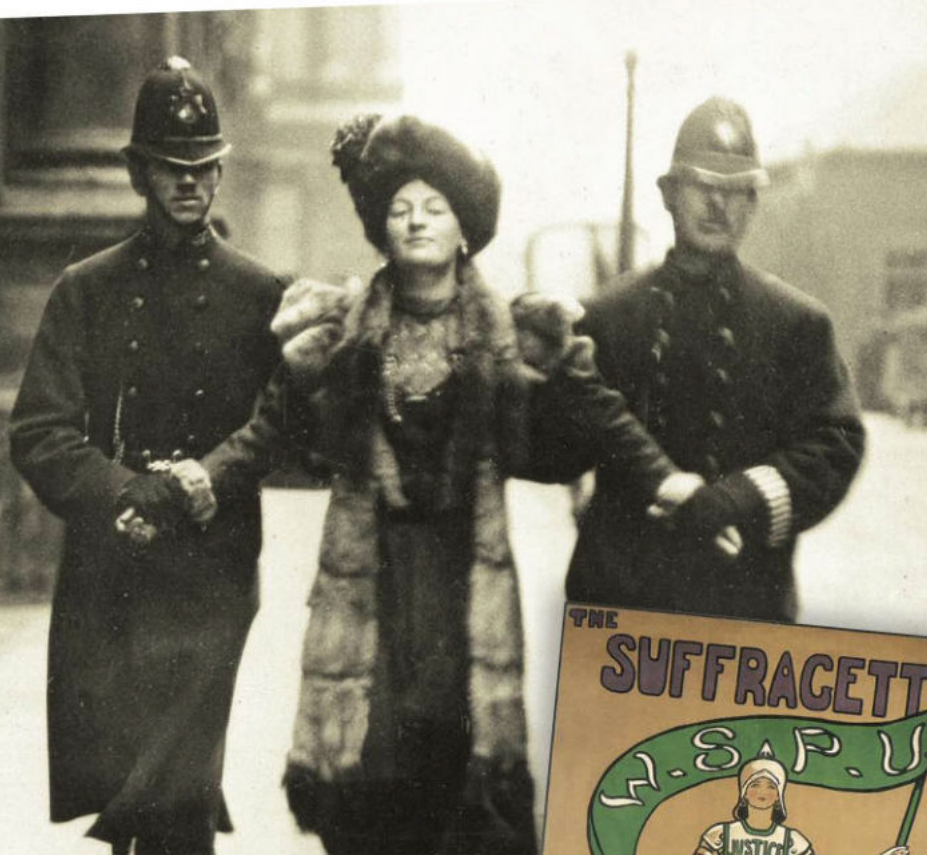
A week before King George V's coronation in June 1911, Suffragettes from all over Britain – including this Welsh contingent wearing traditional costume and carrying dragon standards – descend on London to implore the new monarch to support their cause.

MEETINGS AND PETITIONS ATTRACTED SUPPORT BUT FAILED TO CHANGE THE LAW



LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY?

Until 1913 (when it is banned for its law-breaking actions), the WSPU hires the famous concert venue, the Royal Albert Hall, to hold meetings. At such meetings, which feature speeches from influential members, including the Pankhursts and the 'General', Flora Drummond, it is agreed that the best way to draw attention to their cause is public disruption and inviting arrest.

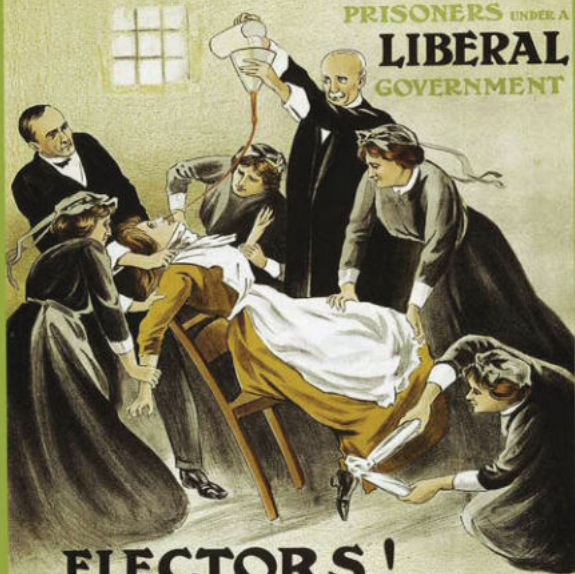


CLAIMING THE NAME

When *Daily Mail* journalist Charles Hands coins 'Suffragette' in 1907, he means it derogatorily. The women of the WSPU, however, embrace the term and even name their journal after the supposed insult (right). Every time a woman is arrested, she is proud to announce that she is a Suffragette, rather than a suffragist.



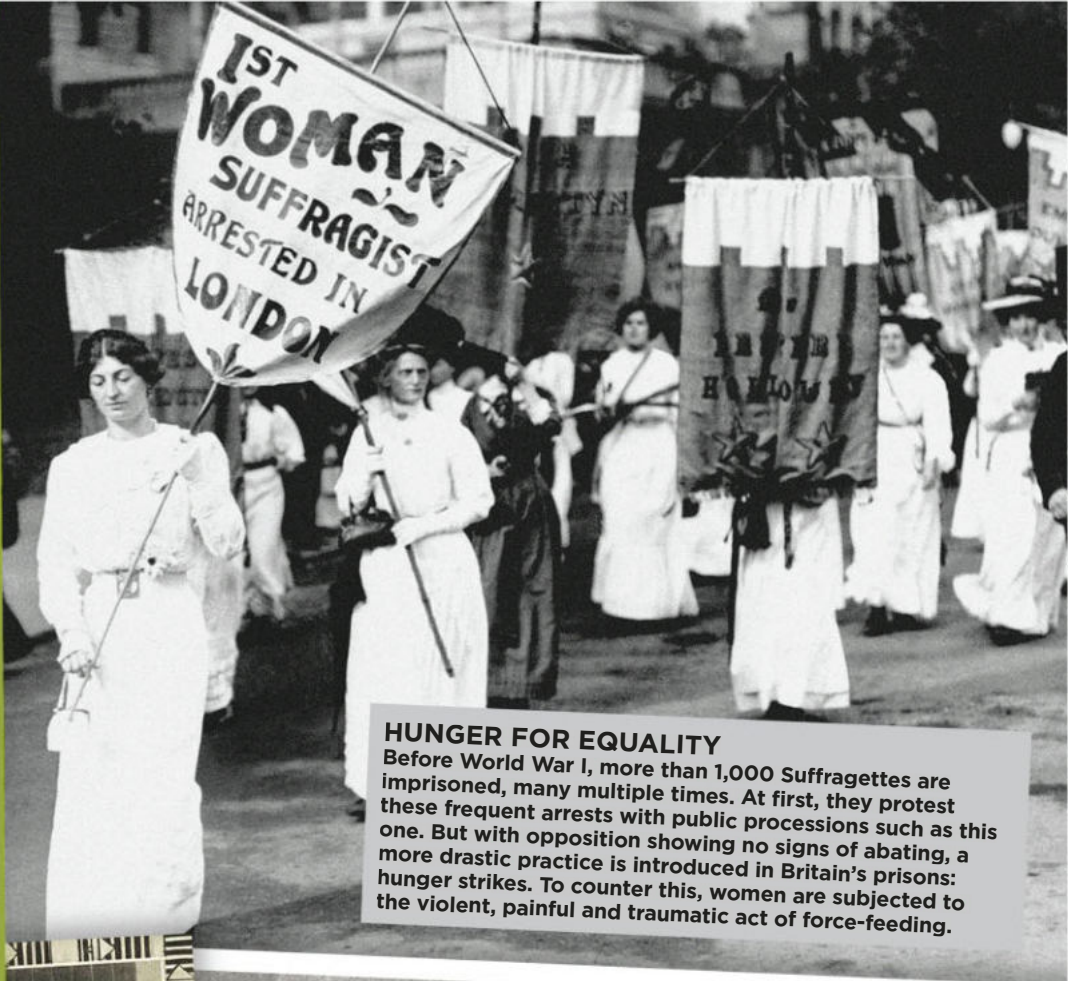
THE
MODERN INQUISITION
TREATMENT OF POLITICAL
PRISONERS UNDER A
LIBERAL
GOVERNMENT



ELECTORS !

*Put a stop to this Torture
by voting against
THE PRIME MINISTER*

**1ST WOMAN
SUFFRAGIST
ARRESTED IN
LONDON**



HUNGER FOR EQUALITY

Before World War I, more than 1,000 Suffragettes are imprisoned, many multiple times. At first, they protest these frequent arrests with public processions such as this one. But with opposition showing no signs of abating, a more drastic practice is introduced in Britain's prisons: hunger strikes. To counter this, women are subjected to the violent, painful and traumatic act of force-feeding.



BLACK FRIDAY

On 18 November 1910, police brutality spreads beyond the prisons when some 300 Suffragettes, attempting to march to Parliament, are attacked. Women are beaten with batons, punched, kicked, thrown to the ground and have their faces rubbed against railings. Black Friday is the final straw; Suffragettes become committed to militant action. They also learn to protect themselves, thanks to Edith Margaret Garrud who trains them in jujitsu.

MILITANT MEANS

Seeing no other legal way to make themselves heard, Suffragettes began an intense campaign of destruction



WAR ON WINDOWS

These five Suffragettes proudly show off their latest victim in the 'war on windows', which sees stones hurled through hundreds of shop fronts in the opening salvo of the WSPU's militancy. In one of her books, Emmeline Pankhurst claims "the argument of the broken window pane is the most valuable argument in modern politics".



EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

In March 1914, activist Mary Richardson enters the National Gallery in London and hacks at the famous *Rokeby Venus* painting with a smuggled meat cleaver. It is one of the WSPU's most high-profile acts, for which Richardson is sentenced to six months in prison.



NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

Other illegal deeds perpetrated by Suffragettes involve pouring acid into mailboxes, ruining golf courses, throwing a hatchet at the Prime Minister's car and setting fire to unoccupied buildings. In 1913, which sees damage totalling £54,000, St Catherine's Church in Hatcham, south London, is burned.

PRISONS WERE WAR ZONES. HUNGER STRIKES AND FORCE-FEEDING WERE THE WEAPONS



A GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE

With public outrage at the horror stories of force-feeding, the government passes the Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act in 1913. This means women can be released if they are weak or close to death as a result of starving themselves, but they can be instantly re-arrested once their health has improved. This proves equally unpopular and is dubbed the 'Cat and Mouse Act' as it draws comparisons to a cat toying with its prey.



WEAK IN BODY, STRONG IN SPIRIT

Emmeline Pankhurst's daughter Sylvia is carried in a bath chair, flanked by supporters and her own bodyguard as she is too frail from a recent hunger strike. Sylvia is committed to equal suffrage, but argues with her mother over the WSPU's methods, eventually breaking away and forming her own group.

SUFFRAGETTE MARTYR
Thousands of Suffragettes, all in white, march with Emily Davison's coffin on the day of her funeral. Before the tragic accident, Davison had been imprisoned nine times and endured force-feeding on 49 occasions.



DEATH AT THE DERBY

At the Epsom Derby on 4 June 1913, zealous Suffragette Emily Davison gives testament to the WSPU motto - 'Deeds not words' - when she steps on to the track in a reckless attempt to disrupt the horse race. The 40-year-old goes to grab King George V's horse, Anmer, but is violently knocked to the ground and trampled. She passes away four days later from severe injuries. It is still debated whether she intended to die (a return train ticket was in her possession) or if she just intended to attach a 'Votes for Women' banner to Anmer's reins.

GETTY X3, PRESS ASSOCIATION X2



WOMEN AT WAR

It highlights the dedication of the Suffragettes that the one thing that could stop them was World War I...



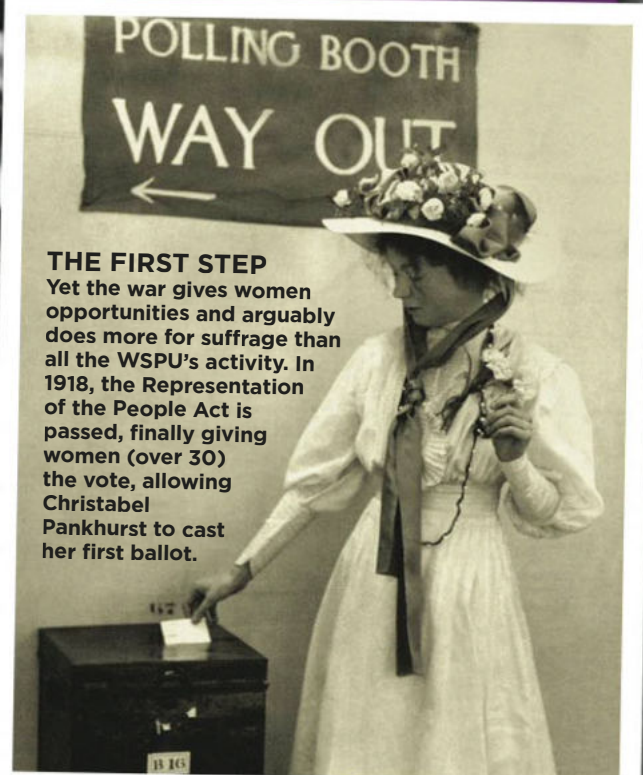
DOING THEIR BIT

Although they still don't have the vote, the WSPU ceases its policy for public agitation once World War I breaks out, and former Suffragettes throw themselves into the war effort. Mary Allen (left) may have been jailed three times – and force-fed once – but during the war, she is instrumental in establishing a women's police force.



SUFFRAGETTES TO MUNITIONETTES

With men leaving their jobs to fight, a million women take their place, most notably in munitions factories. It is dangerous work – explosions are a constant risk and the chemicals used can turn skin yellow. What's more, women are paid far less than the men were, sometimes as little as half.



THE FIRST STEP

Yet the war gives women opportunities and arguably does more for suffrage than all the WSPU's activity. In 1918, the Representation of the People Act is passed, finally giving women (over 30) the vote, allowing Christabel Pankhurst to cast her first ballot.

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WHAT A GUY

To some, Guy Fawkes was just a would-be murderer; to others, he encapsulated the spirit of protest

GUY FAWKES

GUNPOWDER, TREASON AND PLOT

Guy Fawkes was neither the leader nor the brains behind the plot to blow up Parliament. So why, asks **Jonny Wilkes**, is he the one we remember, remember every fifth of November?



THE HISTORY MAKERS GUY FAWKES

Protestant England in the first years of the 17th century was not a safe place to be a Catholic. Priests risked their lives by saying Mass in secret, while draconian laws made sure all Catholics were forced to publicly worship in Protestant services and declare their loyalty to the monarch as the head of the church. By the time the Tudor dynasty ended, the country had endured decades of religious division and violence since the creation of the Church of England and any pro-Catholic laws made during the brief reign of Mary I had been expunged. Protestantism was firmly established and Catholics faced persecution, suppression, even death.

There was a glimmer of hope that this would end when James VI of Scotland – the son of the executed Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots – succeeded to the English throne on the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. He made early promises of greater tolerance and abolished fines levied against ‘recusants’, those who refused to attend Protestant churches. But that was not to last and, before long, James’s attitude

towards Catholics grew just as aggressive as that of his predecessors. Discontent reached an all-time high and – in huddled, whispering groups around the country – Catholics began plotting to overthrow James and restore their religion. England in 1605 was a powder keg and one of the men holding a match was Guy Fawkes.

CONVERT’S ZEAL

Although Fawkes, born in April 1570 in a small town house in York, was undeniably a zealous Catholic in his adult life, he was initially raised in a respectable Protestant family who diligently attended Church of England services every week. The idea of conversion was probably first considered in his childhood thanks to plenty of Catholic influences around him, from

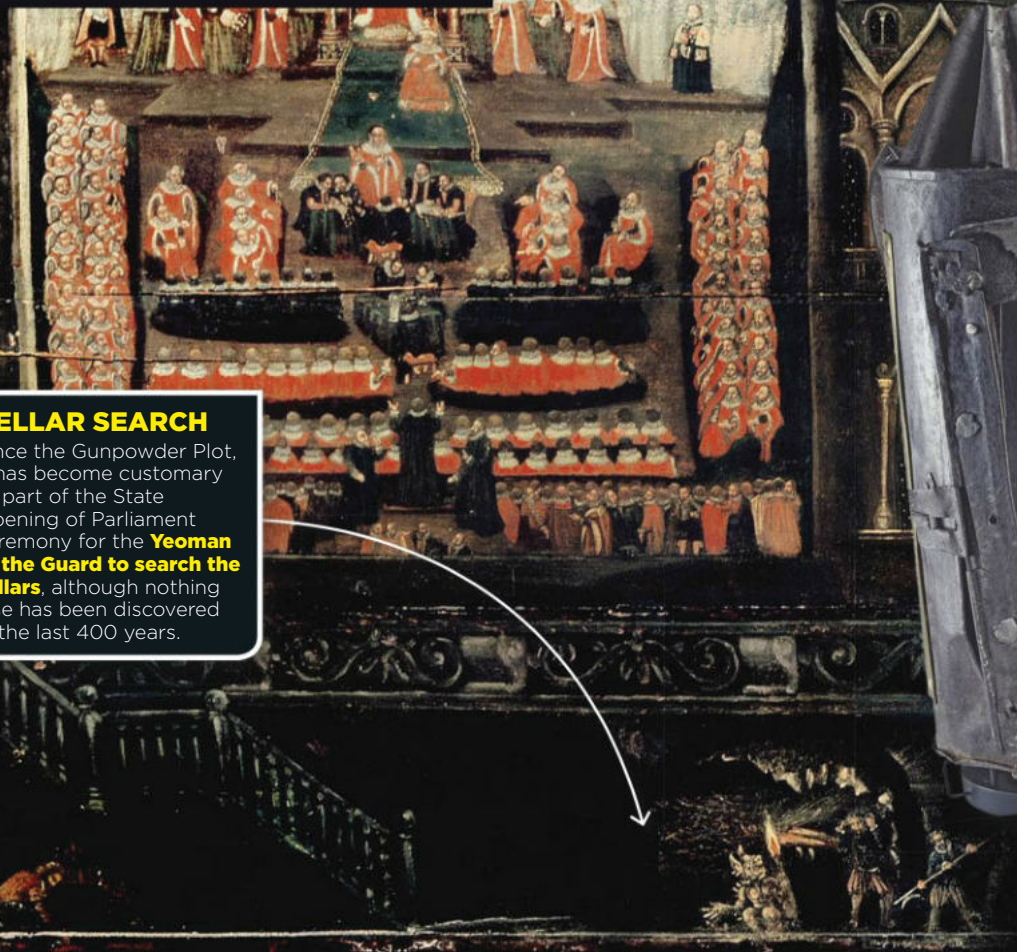


GUY AND THE GUYS

A contemporary engraving shows Guy Fawkes with some of the other Gunpowder plotters, including the man who recruited him, Thomas Winter, and the leader Robert Catesby

BLOWING UP PARLIAMENT

MAIN: A section of a 16th-century diptych depicting Parliament, with the King in attendance and the plotters at the bottom **RIGHT:** The lantern Fawkes was allegedly carrying when he was captured, now housed at Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum



GETTY X2, REX X1, ISTOCK X1

ART ARCHIVE X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1

CELLAR SEARCH

Since the Gunpowder Plot, it has become customary as part of the State Opening of Parliament ceremony for the **Yeoman of the Guard to search the cellars**, although nothing else has been discovered in the last 400 years.

his maternal grandparents, who were recusants, to his school where notable Catholics taught.

Then, when Fawkes was eight, his father died and his mother went on to remarry, this time to a Catholic. It is often said that a convert is more zealous in their faith and this was certainly true of Fawkes. In his early 20s, he sold the estate he had inherited from his father and travelled to Europe with the aim of joining Catholic Spain’s army and fighting the Protestant Dutch. Tall, strong, courageous, a skilled tactician and – possibly most importantly – unwaveringly pious, Fawkes was a natural soldier. He was once called a man of “excellent good natural parts, very resolute and universally learned”. In 1596, he was an officer in the Spanish force that captured Calais after an intense siege and it looked like a long military career was ahead of him.

When he was put forward for a captaincy, however, his ambitions had shifted from the ongoing Eighty Years War back in England. Fawkes – who had adopted the Italian moniker ‘Guido’ in an attempt to have a more Catholic-sounding name – petitioned the Spanish King, Philip III, to support a rebellion against the ‘heretic’ James. Although he was refused, his reputation was catching the attention of other English Catholics.

One such man was Robert Catesby, a charismatic gentleman from Warwickshire who had masterminded a scheme to blow up the House of Lords on the state opening of Parliament, a time when King James, his wife, his son and heir, and all his ministers would be in attendance. The ensuing chaos would, Catesby hoped, allow



BEHIND THE BIG BOOM

It is fitting that a conspiracy to assassinate the King and blow up Parliament has, itself, been the subject of many conspiracy theories and much speculation over the centuries. The main theory arose in the immediate aftermath of Fawkes's discovery and involves Robert Cecil, the spymaster to King James I and VI and the man who foiled the plot. Some believed, and continue to believe, that Cecil, who had a vast network of spies at his command, either coordinated the entire thing so that James would come down even harder on Catholics or that, at the least, he knew about it long before receiving the Monteagle letter, allowing the plot to play out to make for a more

dramatic denouement. These theories have been refuted, but the fact they existed at all shows the power that the Machiavellian Cecil held in court.

Another theory suggests that, as the gunpowder had decayed so badly, it wouldn't have fired properly anyway, causing little damage. In 2005, a replica of Parliament was built and then blown up using 36 barrels of gunpowder – the same amount Fawkes had smuggled into the cellar. The results proved that everyone in the building would have died, even if some of the powder had deteriorated. Also, the explosion would have been seen from miles away.

James's Catholic daughter, Elizabeth, to take the throne. For the Gunpowder Plot to work, Catesby and his fellow conspirators needed an explosives expert who was not well-known among the English elite, so when they heard of the exploits of Fawkes, they knew they had found their man.

In April 1604, Fawkes was in the Netherlands when one of the plotters, Thomas Winter, approached and invited him to join the conspiracy. Without knowing all the details, or what role he would play, he quickly agreed to return to England. The next month, on 20 May, Fawkes met with Catesby, Winter and other conspirators at the Duke and Drake Inn near the Strand in the heart of London, where they were sworn to secrecy on a prayer book. Catesby's friend, a Catholic priest named John Gerard, happened to be in the pub at the same time, so the men sealed their commitment by taking the Eucharist.

RISKY ROLE

Fawkes may not have been the leader of the conspiracy, but he had the riskiest role. It was his job to acquire a sufficient amount of gunpowder – from illegal sources as the government kept tabs on the sale of ammunition – and smuggle it into Parliament. He would also be the man to ignite the fuse.

It may seem absurd today, but it was possible for anyone to lease a space in the basement of the Parliament buildings, so the plotters rented one of the cellars, as well as a nearby house, so that Fawkes could come and go freely. He spent his time pretending to be the servant of fellow conspirator Thomas Percy, doing so under the frankly terrible false name of 'John Johnson'.

By the middle of 1605, Fawkes had managed to plant 20 barrels of gunpowder in the cellar, with another 16 added later when he saw the powder was decaying. There was enough to destroy not only the room where James would be sat but the entire building in what would



DOOMED AND DEFEATED

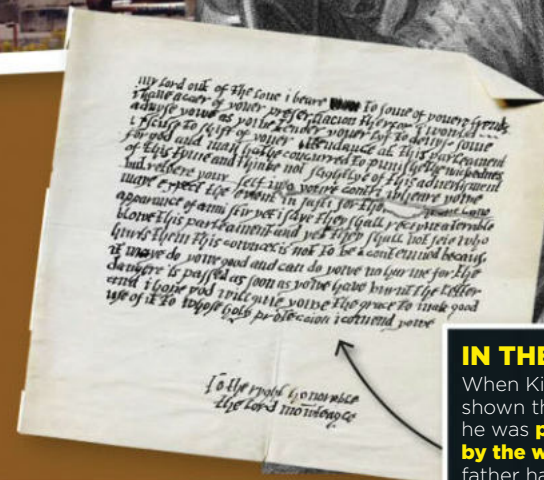
TOP: In 2005, a replica of Parliament was blown up to show the potential damage
RIGHT: A copy of the Monteagle letter, which led to the plot being foiled
FAR RIGHT: Robert Cecil, the King's gifted spymaster

be a terrifying and deafening explosion. As the opening of Parliament was delayed several times due to fear of a plague outbreak, it grew harder to keep the plans secret. A dozen more men were initiated as conspirators, but somehow the authorities remained in the dark, never suspecting what 'John Johnson' was up to. After 18 months of clandestine activity, everything was ready for the day Parliament was to be opened, finally set for 5 November.

Then, just days before the explosive execution, came a fatally foolish error. On the evening of 26 October, Lord Monteagle, a Catholic due to attend the opening, received an anonymous

letter warning him to stay away from Parliament on that day.

"I have a care of your preservation," it read. "I would advise you, as you tender your life, to devise some excuse to shift your attendance at this parliament, for God and man hath concurred to punish the wickedness of this time." The author was Monteagle's brother-in-law (and a plotter) Francis Tresham, but rather than burning the letter as instructed, Monteagle handed it over to the King's ruthless and brilliant spymaster, Robert Cecil. Cecil



IN THE FAMILY

When King James was shown the Monteagle letter, he was **particularly troubled by the word "blow"**. As his father had been killed in an explosion in 1567, he was anxious that this word was a clear reference to an imminent explosion.

PENNY FOR THE GUY

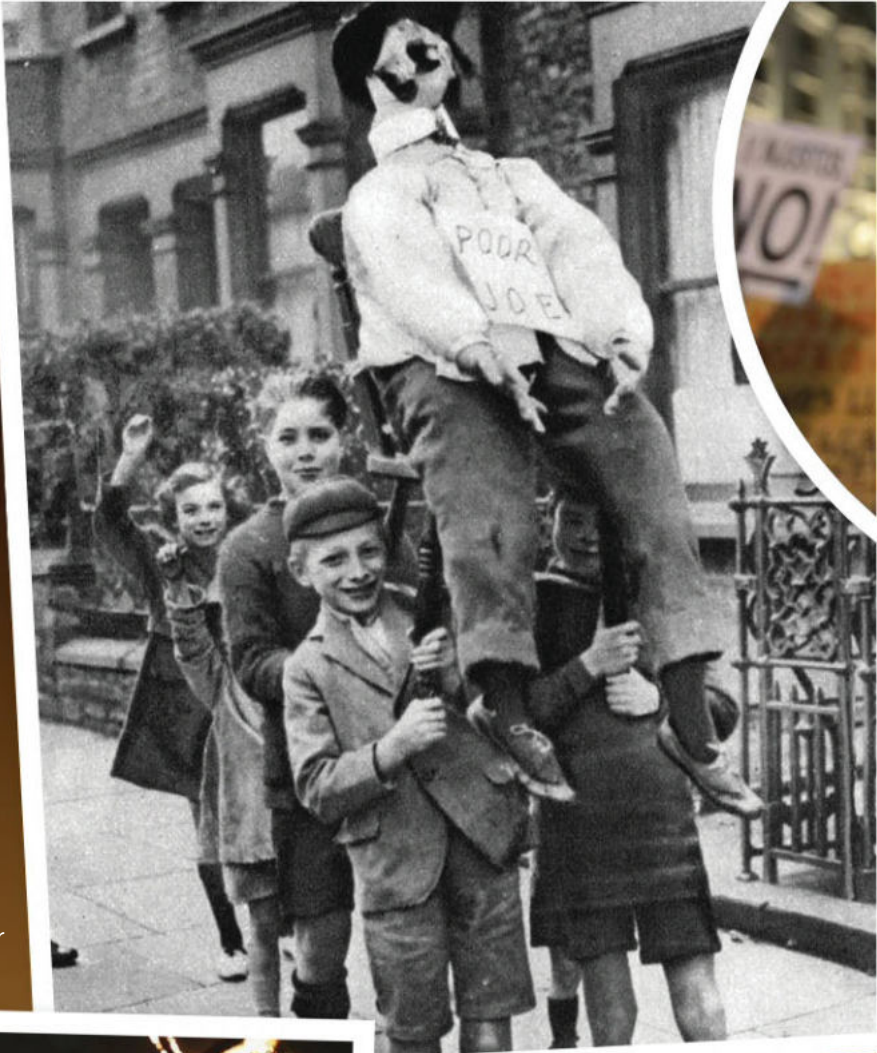
When they heard that a plot to kill the King had been foiled, the people of London celebrated by lighting bonfires across the city – with the blessing of James himself, as long as they were “without any danger or disorder”. And so, before people really knew what the Gunpowder Plot was, Bonfire Night had been born. A few months later, 5 November was made an annual day of commemoration with the passing of the Thanksgiving Act, ensuring that the festivities would take place every year.

It soon became tradition to mark the day letting off fireworks or igniting gunpowder to represent the explosion that never happened. In Canterbury in 1607, some 50kg of powder was lit during the night. As the events got bigger, 5 November grew increasingly rowdy. Yet Bonfire Night wasn't only a time of celebration but for anti-Catholic sentiment too, so this rowdiness could spill over into violence. As well as aggressive sermons in special church services, effigies of Guy Fawkes and the Pope would be hurled on to the bonfires.

By the late 18th century, in the days leading up to Bonfire Night children would be seen parading their Guy Fawkes straw figures and asking for a “penny for the Guy”. They then used whatever funds they raised to buy fireworks. In 1859, the Thanksgiving Act was repealed – in an attempt to put an end to the anti-Catholic behaviour – but Bonfire Night survived.

Today, firework displays and bonfires are held all over the country, with the largest and most elaborate events taking place in the Sussex town of Lewes, believed by many to be the bonfire capital of the world. As the old nursery rhymes goes: “Remember, remember the fifth of November; Gunpowder, treason and plot. For I see no reason, why gunpowder, treason; should ever be forgot!” More than 400 years later, it has certainly not been forgotten.

GETTY X6



FUN WITH FIREWORKS

TOP: Children in twenties London hope to raise money by carrying their ‘Guy’ through the streets

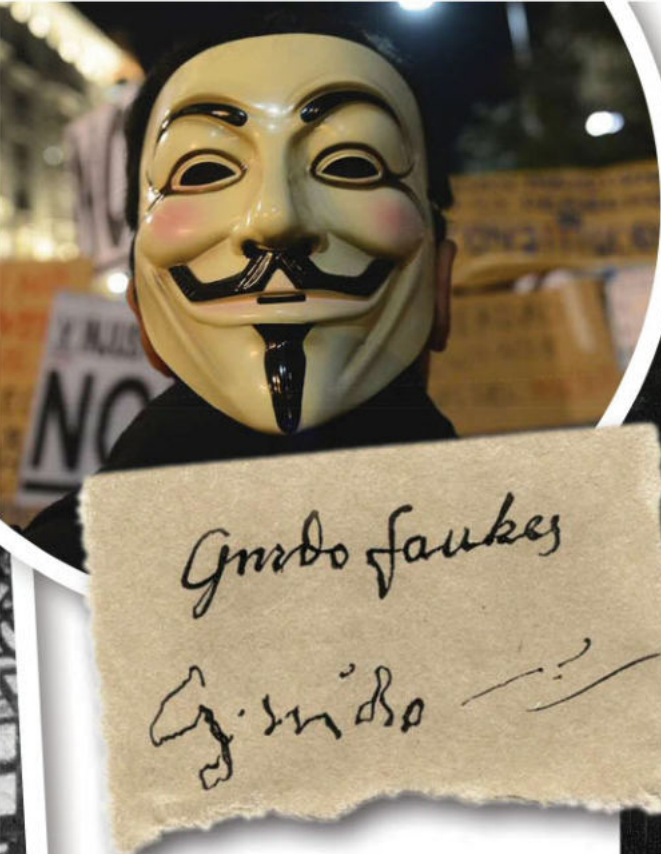
LEFT: Bonfire Night 2012 revellers with burning crosses in Lewes

BELOW: An early 20th-century illustration of children in Guy Fawkes masks, not that dissimilar to the famous mask of today

NO FIRES ALLOWED

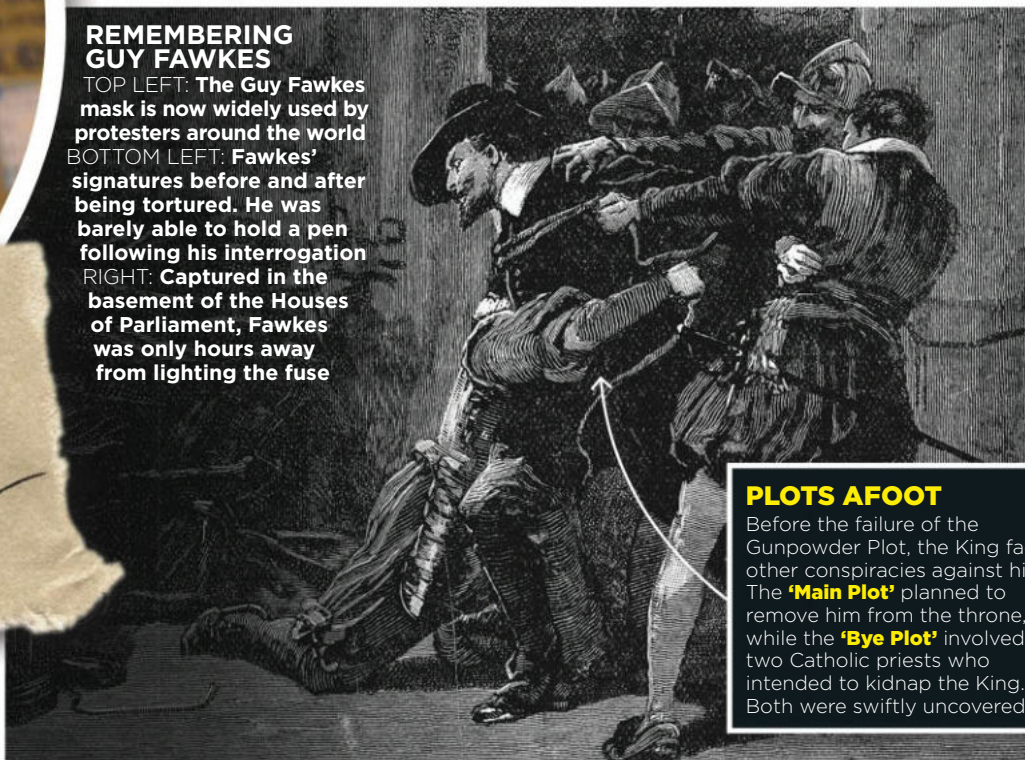
There is one place that doesn't join in with the Bonfire Night festivities. St Peter's School in York refuses to burn an effigy of Guy Fawkes as a **sign of respect for its former pupil**. Fawkes was actually at school with two other Gunpowder Plotters.





REMEMBERING GUY FAWKES

TOP LEFT: The Guy Fawkes mask is now widely used by protesters around the world
BOTTOM LEFT: Fawkes' signatures before and after being tortured. He was barely able to hold a pen following his interrogation
RIGHT: Captured in the basement of the Houses of Parliament, Fawkes was only hours away from lighting the fuse



PLOTS AFOOT

Before the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, the King faced other conspiracies against him. The 'Main Plot' planned to remove him from the throne, while the 'Bye Plot' involved two Catholic priests who intended to kidnap the King. Both were swiftly uncovered.

immediately launched into action to uncover the meaning of the letter's threat, including ordering searches of Parliament.

On the night of 4 November, a man, who gave his name as John Johnson, was discovered holding a lantern and walking through the labyrinthine passageways underneath Parliament. The dismayed and shocked Fawkes was arrested just hours before the scheduled detonation and taken to the King's bedchamber to be questioned by none other than James himself. When asked why he wanted to blow up Parliament – by this time the gunpowder had been located – Fawkes responded by saying the King was a disease. The next question was why such a large amount of gunpowder was needed, and Fawkes gave a candid and nonchalant response: "To blow you Scotch beggars back to your own native mountains!"

FINAL HORROR

With Fawkes captured, it was now necessary for the King, with the help of Cecil, to uncover the rest of the conspiracy. In order to gain information on who else was involved, James demanded that Fawkes be 'interrogated' in the Tower of London. Torture was illegal at the time, but he granted special permission: "The gentler tortours are to be first used unto him, and so by degrees proceeding to the worst, and so God speed your goode worke."

For two whole days, Fawkes was subjected to unimaginable pain and suffering. He held out long enough for James to be impressed by his "Roman resolution", but after enduring the rack, he finally confessed everything and gave away the names of his fellow conspirators. He was made to sign his confession, but he was so weak and broken that he could barely hold the quill so his name came out as a shaky scrawl.

Meanwhile, Fawkes's companions had fled as soon as they realised their plot had failed, but it wasn't long before they were all captured or killed. Even the priests who had heard the confessions of the plotters but had nothing to do with the planning were arrested and brought to London for trial. On 8 November, the final group was discovered to be hiding out at Holbeche House in Staffordshire and surrounded by 200 of the King's soldiers. Catesby, Winter and Percy were among those killed in the shoot-out,

however, didn't stop his corpse being hacked into quarters, as sentenced.

Just before Fawkes died, a bill was introduced to the still-standing Parliament calling for every 5 November to be a day of thanksgiving for the failure of the Gunpowder Plot. He may not have been the leader but, as Fawkes was the one caught in the cellars of Parliament, he became the conspiracy's most (in)famous name.

Despite his aim to murder hundreds of people and risk the country falling into anarchy or civil war, Fawkes has something of the folk hero about him. Whether he is a freedom fighter or a terrorist is a matter of opinion, and his face – which is more recognisable than ever thanks to the iconic mask made famous in the film *V For Vendetta* – continues to embody the spirit of protest.

The immediate aftermath of the Gunpowder Plot, however, was nothing but disastrous for the plotters' hopes. If Fawkes had succeeded in blowing up Parliament, he would have changed the path of English history forever in his bid to restore Catholicism. His failure, though, made sure England was an even less safe place for Catholics. James became committed to the policy of suppression, bringing back and violently enforcing fines for recusants, as well as passing laws to prevent Catholics from voting or holding real power in society. These restrictions would hinder the lives of Catholics in England for two centuries. ○

"A desperate disease requires a dangerous remedy."

GUY FAWKES

before their heads were cut off so they could be placed on spikes outside the House of Lords.

As for Fawkes, he was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered, alongside the other survivors of the conspiracy. It was the common punishment for traitors, which saw the victim hanged, cut down while still alive, castrated, dismembered and decapitated. This was the excruciating agony that awaited Fawkes on 27 January 1606, as he was taken to the place of execution, opposite the very building he had intended to raze to the ground. But although frail and already close to death, the 35-year-old Fawkes escaped this final horror by leaping from the gallows and breaking his neck. This one last act of defiance,

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Guy Fawkes a freedom fighter or a terrorist?

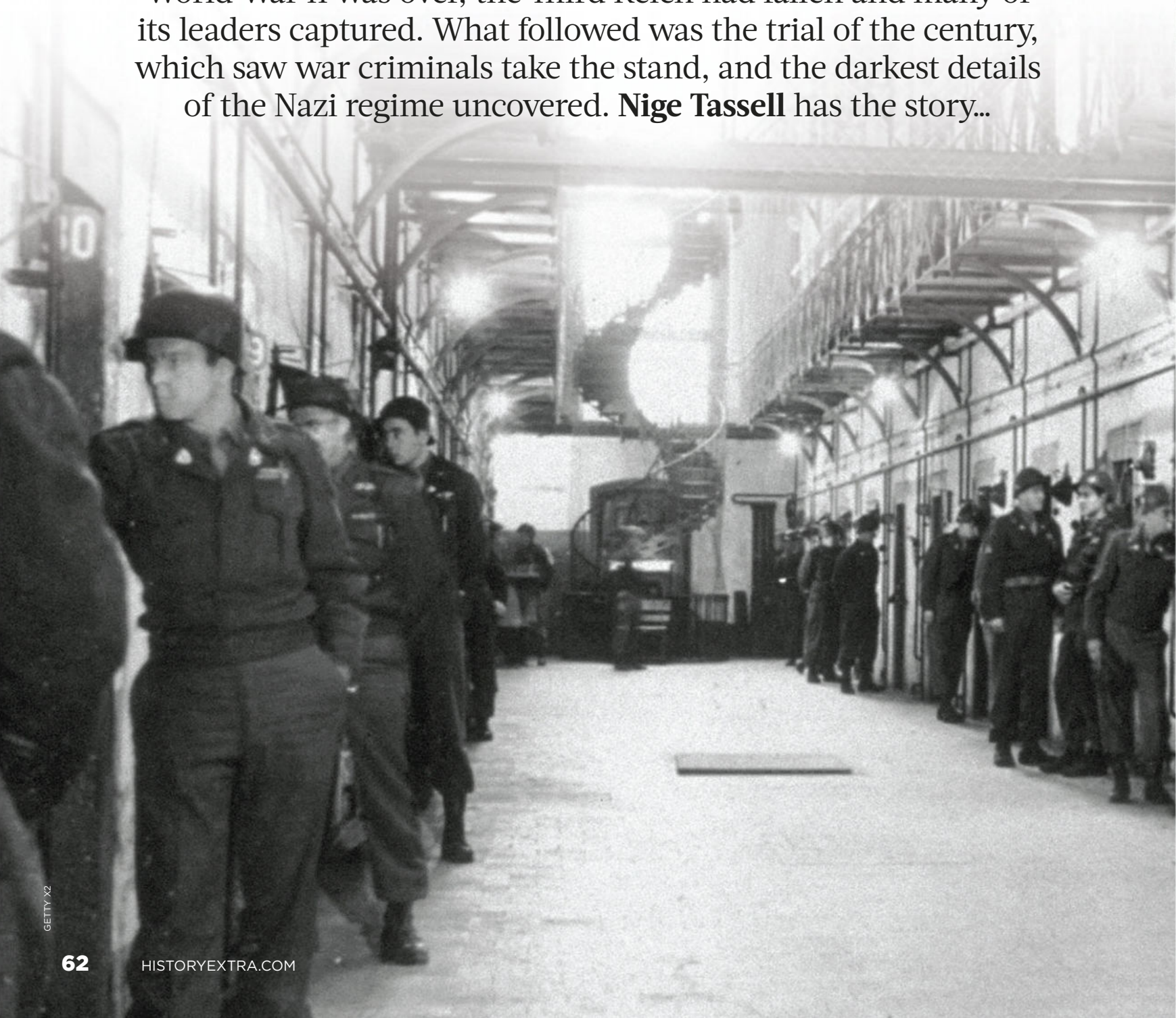
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



THE NUREMBERG TRIAL
NAZIS IN THE DOCK

NAZIS IN THE DOCK

World War II was over, the Third Reich had fallen and many of its leaders captured. What followed was the trial of the century, which saw war criminals take the stand, and the darkest details of the Nazi regime uncovered. **Nige Tassell** has the story...



A black and white photograph of a prison corridor in the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. The corridor is long and narrow, with a series of doors on the right side. Above the doors, there are arched metal structures. On the left side, there are metal railings and a chain-link fence. Several guards in dark uniforms and caps are standing in the corridor. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall atmosphere is somber and institutional.

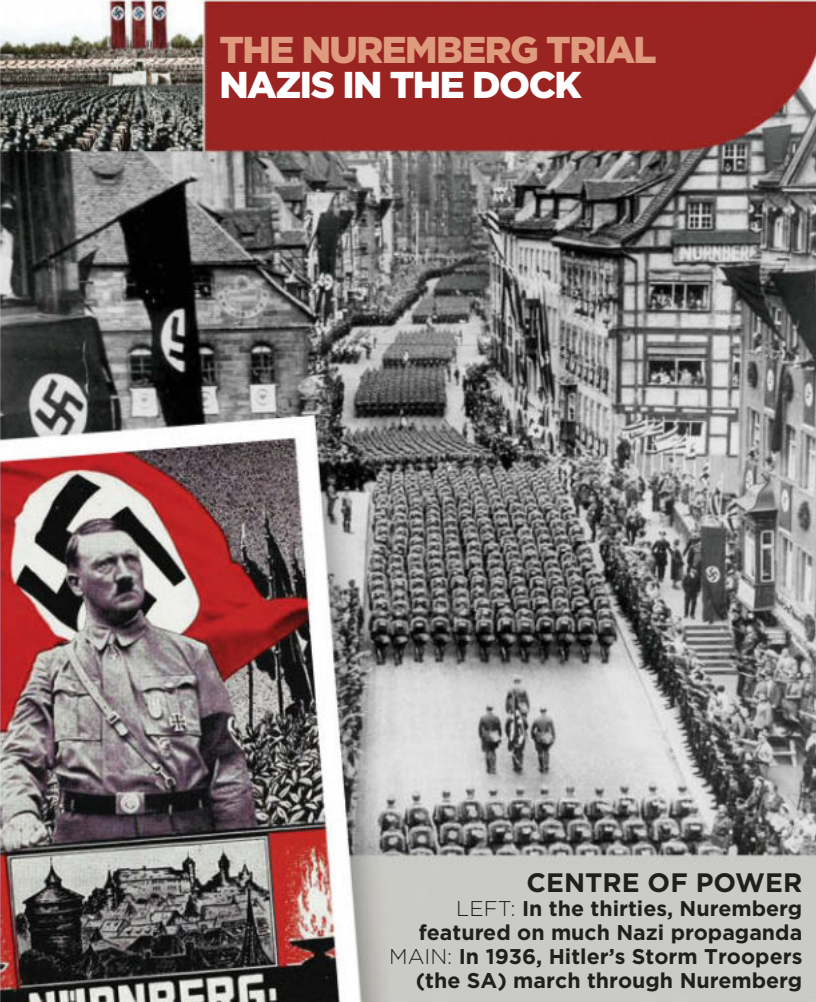
UNDER LOCK AND KEY

21 Nazis accused
of war crimes
are watched
by 21 guards, at
Nuremberg jail
in 1946

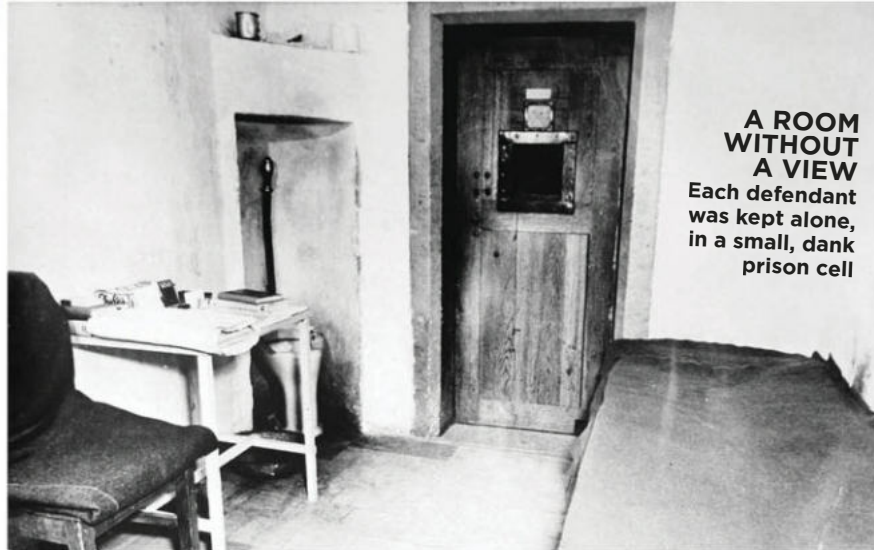
1,200

The total number
of prisoners that
Nuremberg's Palace of
Justice was capable
of holding

THE NUREMBERG TRIAL NAZIS IN THE DOCK



CENTRE OF POWER
LEFT: In the thirties, Nuremberg featured on much Nazi propaganda
MAIN: In 1936, Hitler's Storm Troopers (the SA) march through Nuremberg



A ROOM WITHOUT A VIEW
Each defendant was kept alone, in a small, dank prison cell



WAR CRIMINALS
(L-R) Hermann Göring, Alfred Rosenberg, Baldur von Schirach and Karl Dönitz during their trial

On 7 May 1945, a week after Adolf Hitler's suicide, Germany's Chief of Operations Alfred Jodl signed his country's unconditional surrender, putting his faith in Allied clemency. "The German people and the German armed forces are, for better or worse, delivered into the hands of the victors. In this hour, I can only hope that the victors will treat them with generosity," he said.

Winston Churchill wasn't of such a mind. The British Prime Minister sought the speedy revenge that came from a firing squad's bullets, but consensus over the method of justice needed to be found across the Allies. As early as October 1943, they had published the Moscow Declaration on Germany Atrocities in Occupied Europe, serving notice on the Nazis that, once defeated, they would be pursued "to the uttermost ends of the Earth". This determination for justice to be metered out was reconfirmed at both Yalta and Berlin in 1945. "Public opinion in Allied countries favoured putting the Nazis on trial," explains Richard J Evans, author of *The Third Reich in History and Memory*. "Churchill and Stalin initially just wanted the Nazi leaders shot, but were persuaded that trials would have a good educational and publicity effect."

The problem was that the high-ranking Nazis facing the sanctions of the Allies

hadn't physically committed the crimes themselves. As historian Joseph E Persico later noted, "none of them shot the bank guard, blew the safe or drove the getaway car. Their hands were clean." What's more, Persico continued, the legal framework for prosecuting a government and its military leaders in an international court didn't exist. "The instruments for trying a drunk driver in any county of the United States were more complete than the instruments for trying mass murderers in Europe at the end of World War II. They started from scratch."

After the German surrender, lengthy discussions were held between the Allied countries as they tussled with philosophical conundrums. Who should go on trial? How should they be tried?

And what would be the charges? The International Military Tribunal, set up in August 1945, outlined that the leading Nazis should face charges of conspiracy in the first trial, with subsequent trials putting judges, doctors, civil servants and the like in the dock for more specific crimes. (Notably, mass bombing wasn't defined as a war crime, presumably so that the Allies could avoid accusations of hypocrisy.)

"The high-ranking Nazis hadn't physically committed the crimes themselves."

"Remember that the trials represented new territory in international jurisprudence," explains Neil Gregor, author of *Haunted City: Nuremberg and the Nazi Past*. "Lawyers and politicians were feeling their way towards a new international legal architecture. The question of whom one indicted and for what was also underpinned by unspoken assumptions about what Nazism had represented... and those assumptions differed between the Allies too."

ON LOCATION

The Allies also differed on the question of the trial's location. The Soviets favoured Berlin, while Leipzig and Luxembourg were also considered. But Nuremberg stood out as the strongest

option. Not only had its courthouse largely avoided the Allies' bombs (and had a sizeable jail connected to it), but it was also the spiritual home of Nazism and thus a fitting place for it to be permanently extinguished.

Once they'd been moved from Camp Ashcan in Luxembourg to Nuremberg's Palace of Justice in August 1945, the defendants - who included German Vice-Chancellor Hermann Göring and



former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess – found the restrictions on their activities much tighter. Previously allowed to freely mix with each other, they now spent almost all their time confined to their individual cells with little human contact. Daily exercise lasted 30 minutes, during which time the prisoners were instructed to stay at least ten yards apart. Each convict could write letters, albeit only one per week and of restricted length.

The cells themselves were small – 4 by 2 metres – and their condition was poor; the walls were damp and peeling, the stone floor cold and unforgiving. Each cell had a flushing toilet which, situated behind the door, afforded a rare moment of privacy from the eyes of the guards, who looked in on prisoners every 30 seconds, day and night.

Initially, there was one guard to every four prisoners. Until 25 October, that is, when Robert Ley, the long-serving head of the German Labour Front, was found dead in his cell. Having heard the charges he'd face, he took his own life, tearing a towel into strips and hanging himself using the lavatory pipe. Notes he left behind indicate his final resolve: "I was with Hitler in the good days and... I want to be with him in the black days." After Ley's suicide, the ratio was increased to one guard for each prisoner.

Ley's reaction to receiving his indictment was extreme, and many

THE WATCHMAN
A guard checks on Göring's cell – he was instructed to do so once every 30 seconds

250

The capacity of the press gallery in Courtroom 600 – the court in which the trial was held

WHY NUREMBERG?

The decision to hold the trials in this particular Bavarian city wasn't problem-free

While the Soviet Union had expressed a preference for Berlin as the location of the trials, the rest of the Allies favoured the Bavarian city. "Nuremberg had obvious symbolic value on a number of levels," explains historian Neil Gregor. "It had been the site of the Nuremberg party rallies, it had been the home of the notorious Julius Streicher and his anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*, it had been the site of the proclamation of the Nuremberg Laws. It thus represented, like few other cities, the hubris of the Nazi regime." The city's courthouse, the Palace of Justice, was but a mile from the arena in which Hitler had galvanised the nation at the annual massed rallies.

Symbolism was one thing; achieving the logistics required to host the trials was quite another. More than 90 per cent of Nuremberg had been flattened by Allied bombs, but the Palace of Justice – complete with its own extensive jail – remained largely intact. The courtroom itself needed to be made fit for purpose – it was being used as a recreation centre for a US anti-aircraft unit. As historians Ann and John Tusa vividly explained, "the future judges' bench was the bar with

pin-ups behind it, there was debris in all the corners and spent shells, rags and rusty cans littered the floor." The city's communications infrastructure required a complete overhaul, with the US military installing 124 miles of telephone lines to the courthouse alone in order to service the needs of the 250 press journalists and 600 lawyers and legal staff working on the trial.

There was also the question of physical security. Christine Rommel, the teenage niece of German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, had warned of the possibility of the courthouse being bombed by Nazis who'd evaded capture – "There is so much that they do not want exposed and they are so bitter," she observed. So five M24 tanks were installed around the exterior of the building's wing that housed the courtroom, while armed sentries stayed vigilant up on the roof. Anyone wanting to enter the building was subjected to extensive searches. Having redesigned international law in order to put the concept of Nazism under the legal spotlight, the Allies were not about to allow any hostile ex-SS personnel to threaten the justice the world was waiting for.



SECURITY SERVICE
A US tank guards the Nuremberg courthouse – another four are also on duty

THE NUREMBERG TRIAL NAZIS IN THE DOCK

other prisoners actually welcomed hearing the charges levelled against them, providing the opportunity to lessen the mundanity of jailtime as they liaised with their lawyers and focused on their legal defences. They had the best part of a month to prepare their cases before the trial started on 20 November.

COURTROOM DRAMA

Perceived, rather understandably, by the public as the trial of the century, that first day was not dissimilar to the opening night of a theatrical production. Indeed, some in the public gallery were even using binoculars to get a better view. But, when the 21 accused shuffled into the courtroom that November day, onlookers were underwhelmed by the sight of those squeezing onto the two rows of wooden benches.

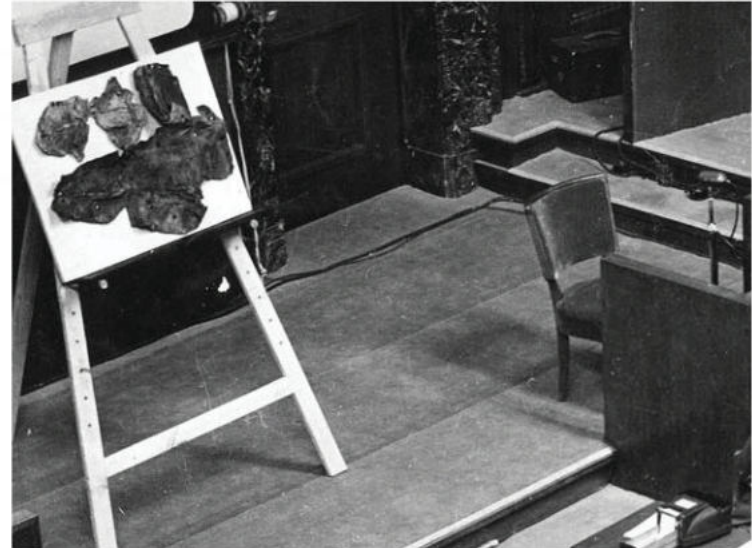
No longer the powerful leaders of a nation, this was a shabby collection of mostly older men, shorn of their authority and shrunken both metaphorically and – in the case of Göring who'd lost nearly 6 stone on the prison diet – physically. They looked pale under the hot, bright lights necessary for the trial's filming. As the US Chief Prosecutor Robert H Jackson announced, "It is hard now to perceive in these men as captives the power by which as Nazi leaders they once dominated much of the world and terrified most of it."

Guarded by a tight line of white-helmeted US military police, to their left sat a bank of interpreters. With four legal

teams conducting proceedings in four different languages (English, French and Russian, as well as the accused's native German), these interpreters were crucial in ensuring the trial kept up a semblance of clarity and momentum. Jackson's son William had approached IBM to supply its innovative International Translator System, which offered simultaneous translation, via headsets, in up to five languages. Despite initial British scepticism, the technology proved effective, and IBM was subsequently invited to install the system at the United Nations.

The trial's early hours were taken up with hearing the accused's pleas. Göring immediately showed his defiance when he stepped up to the microphone, attempting to deliver a prepared speech before Lord Justice Lawrence cut him short. "I informed the court that defendants were not entitled to make a statement," the British judge curtly snapped. "You must plead guilty or not guilty."

With all 21 defendants offering not-guilty pleas, the prosecution teams laid out their cases. They were able to draw upon a huge tranche of paper records that the Nazis had kept. As Joseph E Persico later noted, "the thump of the rubber stamp on a document is a very Teutonic sound". And it wasn't just the mountain of paperwork. Evidence removed from the Buchenwald concentration camp was particularly damning, and distressing. This included a decapitated head used by the camp



"Two of the accused wept at the images, another refused to look at the horror."

commandant as a paperweight, along with tattooed human skin, as used by the commandant's wife in their household furnishings.

The film evidence shown to the court was also especially damaging to the defence. Göring had wanted the 21 to go down in history as martyrs to the Nazi cause. As Richard J Evans explains, Göring "wanted the defendants to present a united front and was dismissive of those who expressed repentance and remorse." But the

THE WORLD WAS WATCHING

How the trial was perceived across the globe

As the defendants first appeared in the Palace of Justice in November 1945, the world's media found it sensational. The first day's reports were heavily produced, and lapped up by the public. But the buzz wouldn't last. While it was hoped that the first trial would be speedy and efficient, it ended up taking in excess of ten months. Unsurprisingly, a stretched-out, nuanced trial conducted by four separate

legal teams could never satiate the public desire for clarity and simplicity. In the Allied countries, interest held while the accused were being cross-examined, but this faded, along with press coverage, after the key defendants had stood down.

Any moments of high drama were overshadowed by prosaic procedure. The French legal team's presentation was, it

seems, particularly dull. "I am compelled to sit in suffering silence," observed the British judge Norman Birkett, "whilst the maddening, toneless, insipid, flat, depressing voice drones on in endless words which have quite lost all meaning." If the judges were losing focus, how could the public keep theirs?

The German people's reaction to the trial was one of indifference or disinterest. Their own personal survival, among the physical and psychological ruins, was of paramount importance. "Insofar as the judicial reckoning with the crimes of the past interested them," explains historian Neil Gregor, "it was more the mass denazification tribunals that millions of Germans had to undergo that affected them more directly. The Nuremberg trials tended to affirm for them that the Nazi leadership had been guilty of all the crimes and the mass of the population had been innocent."

BROUGHT TO LIGHT
Harsh filming
lights glare down
on the courtroom



TWO EXTREMES
Inattentive Hess (left) sits
next to studious Göring





60

The speed, in words per minute, at which the trial could proceed, in order for the IBM translation system to work

screening of footage from concentration camps prompted a degree of contrition from some in the dock, fracturing Göring's objective. Two of the accused wept at the images, while another turned his back and refused to look at the horror and human carnage.

Not that Göring cracked. He remained inscrutable throughout the screenings. Having been weaned off his long-standing dependency on morphine during his time in captivity, he was focused and determined. He wouldn't surrender to a legal process that, in his mind, had no precedent or jurisdiction. Refusing to dilute his National Socialism principles, he continued to bring his weight of character to bear on his fellow defendants. The tribunal sensed this and, by February 1946, clipped Göring's influence by making him eat alone.

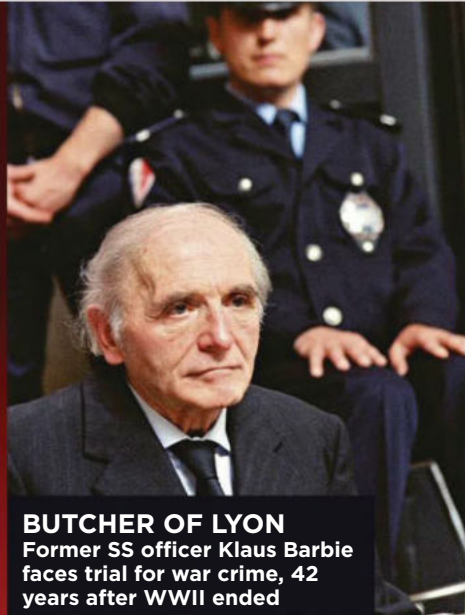
PUBLIC OPINION

The reactions of the defendants to evidence – whether written, verbal or on film – proved fascinating to the observers. Filmed, broadcast and analysed across the world, the appearances in the dock shaped public opinion towards each defendant.

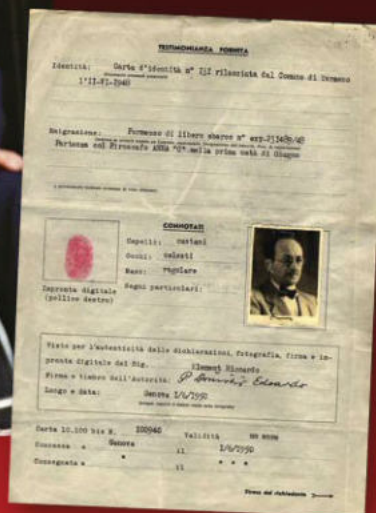
Aside from Göring, it was the one-time Deputy Führer, Rudolf Hess, who commanded the most public interest. Having been held in British captivity since 1941 (during which time he attempted suicide twice and complained of memory loss), Hess claimed to be suffering from amnesia, albeit seemingly reserved for events in Germany from before his incarceration. Appearing distracted and distant, and often reading books during the trial, he went on to admit that “the reasons for simulating loss of memory were of a tactical nature”. Although he was hoping that charges against him would be dropped, the tactic wasn't wholly

EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES

LEFT: What was once a lampshade made out of human skin is presented as piece of evidence
ABOVE: This hefty pile of transcripts represents just 20% of all those taken during the presentation of evidence



BUTCHER OF LYON
Former SS officer Klaus Barbie faces trial for war crime, 42 years after WWII ended



PAPER TRAIL
The passport of Ricardo Klement – real name Adolf Eichmann – used to enter Argentina in 1950

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY

Enter the Nazi hunters...

The Nuremberg trials didn't put all surviving high-ranking Nazis in the dock. Many remained at large. For decades, a dedicated brigade of Nazi hunters sought, with some success, those ring-leaders who had evaded capture.

Klaus Barbie, known as the 'Butcher of Lyon', was a Gestapo officer believed to have tortured prisoners as well as being responsible for some 14,000 civilian deaths. Despite these crimes, in 1947, the US engaged him for anti-Communist counterintelligence work. This angered France, who called for his extradition. Barbie escaped to Bolivia where, under the alias of Klaus Altmann, he was later made a lieutenant colonel in the Bolivian army. In 1971, he was tracked down by the Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Karsfeld, but his extradition to France wasn't finalised for 12 years. At Barbie's 1987 trial, jurors found him guilty of 41 charges.

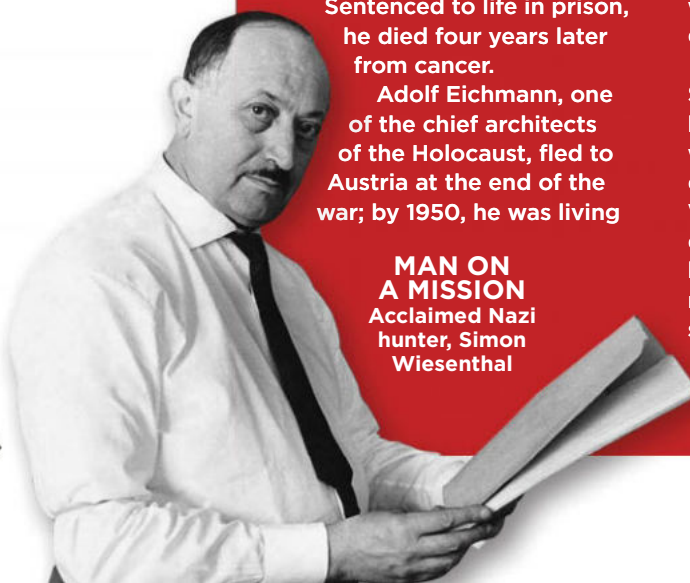
Sentenced to life in prison, he died four years later from cancer.

Adolf Eichmann, one of the chief architects of the Holocaust, fled to Austria at the end of the war; by 1950, he was living

in Argentina under a false name. In 1953, the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal learned of a sighting of Eichmann in Buenos Aires, information that he passed on to the Israelis. In 1960 – wary of an extradition request being denied by Argentina – the Israeli foreign intelligence agency Mossad kidnapped Eichmann, dressing him as a flight attendant to get him out of the country. He was tried in Israel the following year, found guilty and hanged in June 1962.

While in Argentina, Mossad had hoped to also capture another Buenos Aires resident – a high-ranking SS officer at Auschwitz called Josef Mengele. But Mengele had relocated to Paraguay in 1959 where, despite living under the none-too-convincing pseudonym of Jose Mengele, he evaded the efforts of Wiesenthal and fellow hunter Hermann Langbein before drowning in 1979. Buried as Wolfgang Gerhard, his body was later exhumed; DNA testing confirmed it was Mengele.

Jewish Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal was the most high-profile Nazi hunter. As well as gathering vital material on Eichmann and Mengele, Wiesenthal's information was crucial in the apprehension of hundreds of Nazis. He finally retired in 2003, aged 94. “I have survived them all,” he declared. “If there were any left, they'd be too old and weak to stand trial today. My work is done.”

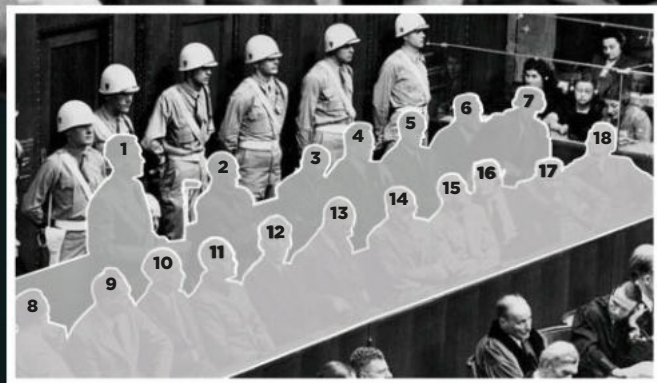


MAN ON A MISSION
Acclaimed Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal

“This was a shabby collection of men, shrunken both metaphorically and physically”



NAZIS ON TRIAL
The defendants take their seats in the dock to make their final statements



THE NUREMBERG 21

The fates of the Nazis on trial

1. Baldur von Schirach
Leader of the Hitler Youth movement who expressed remorse during the trial. Sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and served the full term.

2. Alfred Jodl
Chief of operations of the German armed forces throughout the war. Hanged.

3. Franz von Papen
The Führer's Deputy Chancellor from 1933-34

and Ambassador to Turkey during the war. Acquitted, but later sentenced to eight years' hard labour by a German court, of which he served a short spell before appealing out.

4. Arthur Seyss-Inquart
Reich Chief for the occupied Dutch territories. Hanged.

5. Albert Speer
Minister for Armaments. Served 20 years in

Berlin's Spandau jail, before writing his memoirs and becoming widely known as "the Nazi who said sorry".

6. Konstantin von Neurath
Minister of Foreign Affairs before the war. Sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and released after eight because of ill health.

7. Hans Fritzsche
Head of the radio division in the Nazi propaganda

machine. Acquitted, but retried by a German court and sentenced to nine years in prison.

8. Hermann Göring
Luftwaffe Chief and the most senior Nazi in the dock. Sentenced to death, but took his own life on the eve of his execution.

9. Rudolf Hess
Deputy Führer until 1941 when he was taken prisoner. Sentenced to life imprisonment and committed suicide in jail in 1987 at the age of 93.

10. Joachim von Ribbentrop
Minister of Foreign Affairs between 1938 and 1945. Hanged.

11. Wilhelm Keitel
Effectively Germany's defence minister from 1938-45. He expressed repentance at the trial, but it failed to save him from the executioner's noose. Hanged.

12. Ernst Kaltenbrunner
The highest-ranking SS officer in the dock at the first trial. Hanged.

13. Alfred Rosenberg
Minister of the Occupied Eastern Territories and prominent anti-Semitic theorist. Hanged.

14. Hans Frank
Governor-General of occupied Poland throughout the war. Like Keitel, he showed apparent repentance at the trial. Hanged.

15. Wilhelm Frick
Minister of the Interior and the formulator of the anti-Semitic Enabling Act (or, as it is better-known now, the Nuremberg Race Laws, under which Jews were sent to concentration camps). Hanged.

16. Julius Streicher
Editor of the profoundly anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*. Hanged.

17. Walther Funk
Nazi Germany's Economics Minister. Sentenced to life imprisonment, but released in 1957, because of ill health and died three years later.

18. Hjalmar Schacht
Pre-war Economics Minister who had been liberated from a concentration camp in 1944, so was angry at being put on trial. Acquitted, but subsequently retried and found guilty by a German court.

Out of shot

Fritz Sauckel
Commanded the Nazis' programme of forced labour and described by the chief US prosecutor Robert H Jackson as "the cruellest slaver since the Pharaohs". Hanged.

Erich Raeder
The German navy's Commander-in-Chief

from 1928-43. Sentenced to life imprisonment but released due to ill health in 1955.

Karl Dönitz
The architect of the Germans' U-boat campaign and the man who briefly succeeded Hitler as president after the Führer's suicide. Ten-year prison sentence, served in full.

Trial dodgers

Three others were originally indicted but never took the stand: **Martin Bormann** Head of the Nazi Party Chancellery. Tried in absentia, but later discovered to have already died. **Gustav Krupp** Industrialist. Deemed medically unfit for trial. **Robert Ley** Head of the German Labour Front. Ley committed suicide less than a month before the trial opened.



THE OTHER TRIALS

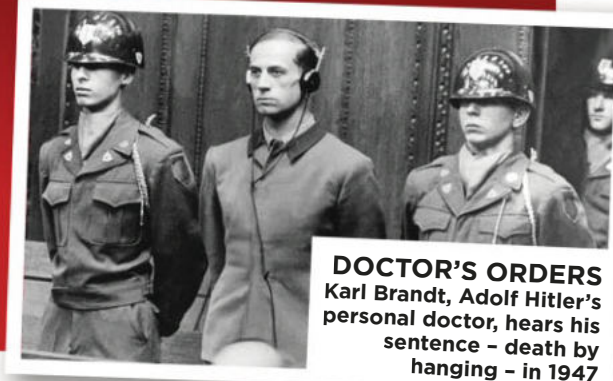
What happened next at Nuremberg's Palace of Justice?

It was always the intention that many trials other than that of the leading Nazis would be put before the International Military Tribunal. However, after that protracted first trial – and, more importantly, due to disagreements between the Allied powers – such a multinational approach wasn't possible. So, as authorised by the Allied Control Council (which controlled the Allied Occupation Zones in post-war Germany), each Allied country was empowered to hold war crimes trials in their own zone.

As Nuremberg fell in the US-occupation zone, the Americans utilised its refurbished courthouse for its own series of trials, with all the prosecutors and judges being American. The first began in December 1946, two months after Göring et al had been found guilty. It placed 23 Nazi physicians in the dock, in what became known as the Doctors' Trial. The next 24 months saw 11 other trials heard in Nuremberg – the defendants included high-ranking military

personnel, SS officers, civil servants and directors of companies sympathetic to Nazi ideals. Among the latter was the CEO of the Krupp corporation, accused of using as many as 100,000 people as part of its forced labour programme in Nazi Germany.

Of the 185 defendants appearing in these dozen subsequent trials, 142 were found guilty of at least one of the charges they were accused of. Death sentences went to 13, while 31 faced life behind bars.



DOCTOR'S ORDERS
Karl Brandt, Adolf Hitler's personal doctor, hears his sentence – death by hanging – in 1947



POISON PILL
The lifeless body of Hermann Göring, who took cyanide to avoid the noose

announced, “hanged by the neck like a common criminal. Lest pity be felt for him and his kind, remember: this man burned the proud cities of Britain.”

In the end, Göring didn't hang like a criminal. Instead, on the morning of the executions just over a fortnight later, he was found dead in his cell. Like Hitler and other senior Nazis 18 or so months earlier, his was death by cyanide capsule. He left a letter, explaining his

suicide was because the tribunal had refused to execute him by firing squad. The letter also explained that he'd had the capsule since arriving in Nuremberg. “None of those entrusted with the inspections is to blame, as it would have been almost impossible to find the capsule.”

The remaining ten condemned were taken to the prison gym for their executions. The hangman, American John C Woods, was experienced but still less-than-capable, as he appeared to have miscalculated the length of rope needed. Rather than dying instantly from broken necks, several experienced a slow death by strangulation, taking up to 24 minutes to perish. The bodies were taken to Munich where they were cremated, their ashes dropped into the River Isar without ceremony.

Following the executions, the *New York Times*' lengthy headline

worked hard to deliver all the salient information: “GOERING ENDS LIFE BY POISON; 10 OTHERS HANGED IN NUREMBERG PRISON FOR NAZI WAR CRIMES; DOOMED MEN ON GALLOWS PRAY FOR GERMANY.” The article also reported how, in their last hours, some found solace in “escapist books” and ate their “usual suppers”. The tone was factual, never triumphalist.

The Allied media and observers were satisfied by the verdicts. But what about the German population trying to rebuild their lives and their country? Did they experience closure? “Many Germans told themselves this, of course,” concludes Neil Gregor. “But for the surviving victims of the Holocaust, and for other victims, there was little sense that justice had been done. It took the Eichmann Trial of 1961 and the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial of 1963–65 to place the Holocaust and the other racial crimes at the centre of the legal reckoning with the Nazi past. As for ‘closure’, I would argue that the events of the Holocaust continue to define the conditions of being German and of being Jewish, obviously in different ways.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Should any Allied war leaders have been tried as war criminals, as well as German?
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

3

The number of cyanide capsules Göring claimed he had with him in jail. One was found in his clothing and another in his wash bag, while the third took his life

unsuccessful; Hess did ultimately dodge the hangman's noose.

THE VERDICT IS IN

With all the evidence sifted through and all defences heard, the justices retired on 2 September 1946 to discuss verdicts and sentences. A month later, more than ten months after the trial opened, those verdicts were announced. Of the 21 defendants, 11 were to be hanged, seven imprisoned and three acquitted (although all of these would later be retried in German courts and found guilty). The British Pathe news reel was satisfied with one sentence in particular. “Now he [Göring] will die,” its reporter



IBN BATTUTA'S WORLD TOUR

Pat Kinsella meets a 14th-century Moroccan globetrotter, whose 29-year journey led him over 75,000 miles across three continents, visiting some 44 modern-day countries...

ALAMY XI GETTY XI

**“I braced my resolution
to quit all my dear ones,
female and male, and
forsook my home as birds
forsake their nests.”**

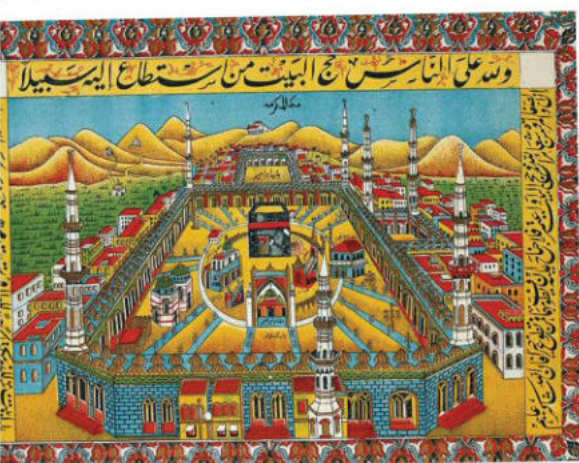
Ibn Battuta



THE GREAT DESERT
A caravan treks through the
Sahara in Mali - Ibn Battuta
crossed the same sun-baked
sands some 665 years ago

Like Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta's adventures weren't recorded until he'd stopped travelling – and some of his claims are deemed questionable. Yet the book about his wanderings, *Rihla: My Travels*, remains a fascinating portal into Dar al-Islam – the medieval Muslim world – and an important source of information about everything from politics and geography through to cultural attitudes.

Although often outraged by the state of undress of local women, he wed multiple times, kept a string of concubines and female slaves, and sired numerous children.



THE GREAT MOSQUE OF MECCA
The ultimate destination for those undertaking a hajj, which Ibn Battuta visited several times

DAR AL-ISLAM

While he encountered Christian, multi-faith China and newly-Muslim societies, Ibn Battuta mostly travelled through an established Muslim world known as Dar al-Islam. As an educated Muslim, the traveller enjoyed hospitality throughout the lands, where sophisticated networks facilitated trade and travel. Much of Dar al-Islam was still reeling from a recent Mongol invasion, which had created the Ilkhanate of Persia, weakened Baghdad and Damascus, and moved power to Egypt.



Yet his wasn't a carefree sojourn. During the course of his travels, he was accosted by bandits and pirates, shipwrecked, became embroiled in battles and nearly executed by a notoriously unhinged sultan.

MOROCCO TO MECCA

Born in 1304 in Tangiers, Ibn Battuta studied Muslim law before beginning his first pilgrimage in 1325, travelling solo by donkey along the Maghreb (coastal North Africa) towards Egypt.

After traversing the Moroccan mountains, he joined a caravan. Falling ill, Battuta's companions tied him into his saddle and he spent two months in a Tunis *madrasa* – an educational institution – recuperating. Leaving as part of a bigger hajj group, he was appointed the caravan's *qadi*, or Islamic judge.

During an eventful crossing of Libya, Ibn Battuta married twice, separated once, and survived an encounter with a gang of sword-

waving camel robbers. In the busy harbour city of Alexandria, he beheld the Pharos, an ancient lighthouse and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

In 1326, he reached Cairo, passing the pyramids of Giza. He attempted the less-travelled route to Mecca, via the Nile Valley and Red Sea, but was forced to turn back by an uprising. He then tried the Royal Road, visiting Hebron, Jerusalem and Bethlehem en route to Damascus. Here he describes the Cave of Blood, where Cain supposedly dragged the body of his murdered brother Abel.

Although only in Damascus for 24 days – during Ramadan, when he also fell ill – Ibn Battuta managed to marry again, father a son (who he never met) and get divorced. Joining another caravan, he then continued to Medina, visiting Mohamed's grave, before reaching Mecca, where he earned the honorific status of 'al-Hajji' (given to Muslims who complete a pilgrimage).

5,000
Ibn Battuta's wage, in silver dinars, when he was a judge in Delhi – the average Hindu family lived on five dinars a month

1 TANGIERS June 1325

Ibn Battuta leaves home on his first hajj, arriving in Egypt in spring 1326, visiting first Alexandria and then Cairo.

2 DAMASCUS Ramadan 1326

Having tried and failed to reach Mecca via the Nile and Red Sea, Ibn Battuta travels to Damascus via Hebron, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

3 MECCA AND MESOPOTAMIA November 1326-27

After a month in Mecca, Ibn Battuta explores Mesopotamia, visiting Basra, Shiraz, Tabriz and Mosul. He returns to Mecca, and stays for a few years.

4 MOGADISHU c1330

The traveller witnesses Mogadishu's heyday, and experiences "an exceedingly large city" full of merchants. He follows East Africa's coast to Kilwa, before returning to Mecca for a third hajj.

5 CONSTANTINOPLE 1332

Via the Crimean Peninsula, Ibn Battuta travels along the Volga River with the leader of the Golden Horde, before accompanying one of the Khan's wives to Constantinople, then a Christian city.

6 DELHI c1334

Having traversed the Eurasian Steppe and stayed with a Mongol leader, Ibn Battuta heads to India, where he works under the unpredictable Muhammad bin Tughluq, Sultan of Delhi.

7 CALCUT 1341

Ibn Battuta sets out for China, charged with gifts to deliver to the Emperor. Disaster strikes in Calicut, where a storm sinks boats and cargo.

8 MALDIVES 1343-45

Recently converted to Islam and in need of educated Muslims to establish a new

order, the authorities of this island nation appoint Ibn Battuta as high judge, shower him with gifts and slaves, and make it difficult for him to leave – until he marries four women, abuses his position and upsets the governor.

9 SOUTHEAST ASIA 1345

Fleeing the Maldives, Ibn Battuta explores Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and modern-day Bangladesh, where he meets the celebrated Sufi Muslim Shah Jalal, before continuing to Sumatra, Malaysia and Vietnam en route to China.

10 CHINA 1345-46

Landing in Ch'u'an-zhou, Ibn Battuta explores parts of Mongol-controlled China, including Guangzhou, Fuzhou and Hangzhou, and possibly travels the Grand Canal to Peking to meet Emperor Togon-temür of the Yuan Dynasty (some doubt this section). He sees and describes The Great Wall.

11 ANDALUSIA 1349-50

Returning from China through a rapidly collapsing Persia, with the Black Death close on his trail, Ibn Battuta briefly goes back to Morocco before travelling to Andalusia to take up arms in defence of Muslim-held Gibraltar, under attack from Christian forces. The threat abates and he explores the Granada region (southern Spain) instead.

12 MALI 1351

Crossing the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara, Ibn Battuta completes his exploration of the Islamic world with a trip to Mali, where he stays with Mansa Sulayman and visits Timbuktu.

13 TAKADDA (NOW AZELIK IN NIGER) 1352

Summoned home by Sultan Abu Inan Faris, Ibn Battuta returns to Morocco via Sijilmasa, in the company of a large caravan carrying 600 black female slaves. He returns for good in September 1353.



Ibn Battuta then spent six months exploring Mesopotamia. He followed the River Tigris to Basra, crossed the Zagros Mountains into Persia and visited Shiraz, before returning across the mountains to arrive in Baghdad, where he met the great ruler Abu Sa'id Bahadur Khan, and joined the royal caravan. Turning north on the Silk Road to Tabriz, he explored Mosul before joining another caravan to cross the Arabian Desert back to Mecca.

UNDER AFRICAN SKIES

Sometime between 1328 and 1330, Ibn Battuta boarded a ship to travel to Jeddah via the Red Sea. Falling ill, he was put ashore and continued overland to Yemen. He stayed there with the sultan, before carrying on to the trading port of Aden. From here, he travelled the East African coast by dhow, visiting Zeila in the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia, Mogadishu (the pre-eminent city of the Berbers), Zanj, Mombasa,

the islands of Pemba and Zanzibar, and Kilwa Island (modern-day Kilwa Kisiwani).

His description of this section remains the only eye-witness account of the region during the medieval period. He paints a colourful picture of a cultural melting pot and a hive of business (including that of slavery) between black Africans and Arabic traders. After two weeks, when the monsoon winds turned, he sailed back north.



THE MAIN PLAYERS

IBN BATTUTA

While opinions are split on the veracity of some passages of the *Rihla*, it's generally accepted that the Moroccan did wander widely. He worked as a judge after 1352; died in 1377.



IBN JUZAYY

Poet, scribe and author of Ibn Battuta's *Rihla*, written 1352-55, decades after many of the events. Some descriptions are clearly borrowed from other contemporary travelogues.

MUHAMMAD BIN TUGHLUQ

Ruthless and unpredictable Sultan of Delhi 1324-51. In 1333, he hired Ibn Battuta to work as a judge.

SULTAN ABU INAN FARIS

Marinid ruler of Morocco, who ordered Ibn Battuta home to record the history of his travels in 1352. Strangled by his vizier in 1358.



HISTORICAL ISLE
14th-century ruins on Kilwa Kisiwani island, Tanzania - now a World Heritage site

While back in Mecca for a third hajj, Ibn Battuta learned that the sultan of Delhi in Muslim-controlled India was seeking educated Muslim lawmen.

Travelling north, he caught a Genoese galley from Syria to Anatolia in order to look for a Turkish caravan bound for India. Landing in Alanya, he was impressed by the Turks' hospitality and Sunni Muslim faith, but expressed surprise that "they eat hashish, and think no harm of it", as well as being critical of liberal attitudes towards women. He also speaks of a formidable citadel in Alanya, where prisoners were executed by being hurled over the precipice with catapults.

THE GOLDEN HORDE

From the Black Sea port of Sinop, he crossed to the Crimean peninsula. Arriving in al-Qiram (present-day Saryi Krym), he learned that Kipchak Khan Ozbeg, ruler of the Golden Horde, had just left along the Volga River. He quickly caught and joined the Khan's caravan. To his shock, he observed his host getting drunk on a fermented drink called 'buza'.

One of the Khan's wives was pregnant and she was granted permission to return to her father in Constantinople. Ibn Battuta went with her, leaving Dar al-Islam for the first time. His account describes Constantinople 120 years before it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks and renamed Istanbul. Here, he met Emperor Andronikos III Palaiologos and saw the great Christian cathedral of Hagia Sophia, later redesigned as a mosque.

Ibn Battuta returned to the Khan before travelling south, through the great Mongol Empire. He overwintered with Tarmashirin, the Khan of Chagatay and a descendant of Genghis Khan, who'd made Islam the official religion of the empire. He then joined a caravan travelling to Afghanistan, battling bandits, rockslides and snow en route, and continued through the Hindu Kush mountain range into India.

Sultan Muhammad Tughluq was an infamous figure, known for inflicting sadistic punishments on his enemies, including cutting people in half, skinning them alive and having prisoners tossed around by elephants with swords

attached to their tusks. Despite this, Ibn Battuta went to Delhi to become a judge and signed a contract agreeing to stay in India.

He was paid handsomely, but veered close to disaster when he married and had a child with the daughter of a rebellious court official, who was consequently executed by the Sultan. Even more serious was his association with a non-conformist Sufi holy man, who was tortured and beheaded for ignoring the Sultan's orders. Ibn Battuta was arrested, but managed to get released by ridding himself of all possessions and taking on the attire of a beggar. For five months, he lived with a hermit in a cave, before being invited back into the Sultan's palace.

Understandably fearful, Ibn Battuta asked to make another hajj. The Sultan refused, instead making him ambassador to the Mongol court of China. The pilgrim was dispatched with a large entourage and valuable gifts to deliver to the Mongol leader.

They were soon attacked by Hindu rebels, but the soldiers fought them off. During another assault, Ibn Battuta was separated from the party and chased by ten horsemen. He escaped, only to be captured, robbed and imprisoned in a cave by another group of Hindus. Avoiding execution, he was rescued by a Muslim traveller and eventually reunited with his group.

In Khambhat, they boarded four boats – three dhows and a warship carrying soldiers to defend them against pirate attack – and sailed to Calicut, where everything was transferred onto three Chinese junks. A terrible tempest blew up, however, sinking two of the ships. The third, full of slaves – including one pregnant with Ibn Battuta's child – had already sailed. (This ship was later seized by the king of Sumatra.)

Afraid to return to Delhi, Ibn Battuta presented himself before another Muslim sultan in southern India, even going into battle to show loyalty. He remained determined to reach China, though, and eventually set off, taking the scenic route.

NEW CONVERTS

The Maldives had recently converted to Islam and needed

WANDERING PILGRIM

RIGHT: Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) in Turkey, where the wayfarer encountered Christian culture

BELOW: An 18th-century image of the religious traveller (right) on a visit to Egypt

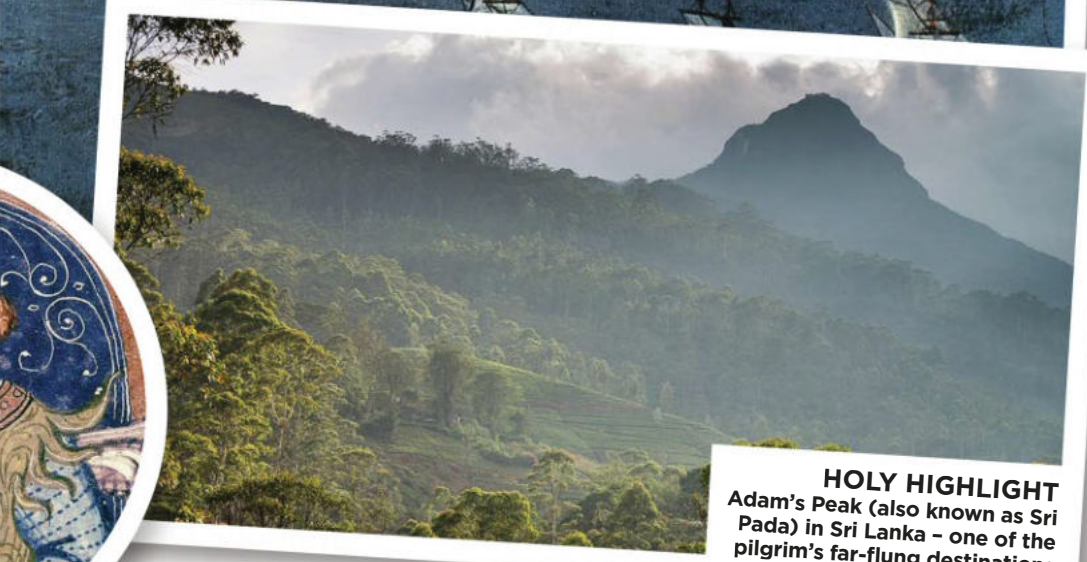
BELOW RIGHT: King Alfonso XI of Spain, whom Ibn Battuta went to war against in 1350

80

The number of lashes awarded as a penalty for drinking wine under Ibn Battuta's rule in Delhi



“He was attacked by pirates who left him with nothing but his trousers”



HOLY HIGHLIGHT
Adam's Peak (also known as Sri Pada) in Sri Lanka – one of the pilgrim's far-flung destinations

COLD MOUNTAIN
Ibn Battuta made the treacherous journey across Morocco's High Atlas Mountains in the depths of winter



judges educated in Islamic law. When Ibn Battuta arrived in Male, he was perfect – they showered him with slave girls, pearls and gold to convince him to stay.

While he attempted (in vain) to impose strict Muslim law, with whippings and amputations handed out to offenders, Ibn Battuta took advantage of the situation to demand luxurious privileges. While claiming to be offended by women walking around topless, he took four local wives, each with powerful political connections. Eventually he fell foul of the governor, however, and had to make a quick exit (via another island, where he took another two wives).

In Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka), Ibn Battuta met the king and went on a pilgrimage to Adam's Peak, where a depression in a rock is said to be the footprint of Adam made when he was thrown from the seventh heaven by God.

The king gifted him a boat, but it was wrecked during a storm. Once aboard another vessel, he was attacked by pirates, who left him with nothing but his trousers. Eventually, though, he

reached Calicut, where he returned briefly to the Maldives before catching a junk to Ch'uan-zhou (Quanzhou) in China, beyond the eastern extremity of Dar al-Islam.

Ibn Battuta was impressed with many things in China, but the country's non-Muslim ways offended him and, after visiting Hangzhou and Fuzhou, he began the long journey home.

Reaching the southern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, he travelled quickly through Persia, where the once-mighty Ilkhan Empire was rapidly disintegrating after the death of the heirless Sultan Abu Sa'id, and returned to Baghdad. From there, he crossed the Syrian Desert following the camel route to Damascus.

The Black Death was hot on his heels as he passed through Syria to Aleppo and then on to Palestine and Cairo, where he later claimed 24,000 people were dying from the plague every day. Fleeing up to the River Nile, he crossed the Red Sea to Jeddah, and then Mecca. Returning to his homeland of Morocco after a 24-year absence, he discovered that both his parents had passed away.

In 1350, with Alfonso XI of Castile besieging Gibraltar, Ibn Battuta joined an Islamic army travelling to defend the town. It was not battle but the Black Death that killed Alfonso, however, and Gibraltar remained in Muslim hands. While in Andalusia, Battuta explored Málaga, Alhama and Granada, where he met 28-year-old writer Ibn Juzayy, who would later transcribe his travels.

THE LAST RESORT

One corner of Dar al-Islam had eluded him, and, in 1351, Ibn Battuta set out to visit Mali. Traversing the Atlas Mountains, he waited for winter in the Oasis of Tafilalt before crossing the vast Sahara Desert in a camel caravan. He reached Walata (now Oualata, in Mauritania) at the end of April, and then followed the Niger River to Mali, where he visited Timbuktu, which would soon become a great centre of Islamic scholarship and trade.

In Takadda, he received a message from the Sultan of Morocco, ordering him home. Joining a caravan carrying 600 black female slaves, he crossed the High Atlas Mountains in the midst of winter, describing it as the hardest road he'd ever travelled, and returned to Morocco for good. 📍

GET HOOKED

READ

A complete translation of Ibn Battuta's *Rihla* by HAR Gibb is available in three volumes. Well-regarded modern tellings of the story include Tim Mackintosh-Smith's *Travels with a Tangerine* and Ross E Dunn's *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta*.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Ibn Battuta a pioneering Muslim globetrotter or an imaginative raconteur?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

MOST EXTRAORDINARY SPIES

CONFIDENTIAL

As James Bond returns to the silver screen, we reveal the stories behind ten incredible real-life 007s

FRANCIS WALSINGHAM

(c1532-90)

Nationality: English
Allegiance: Elizabeth I
Infiltrated: England's Catholic network

As secretary of state near the end of the Tudor dynasty, Francis Walsingham became Elizabeth I's 'spymaster', with a self-defined brief to identify and destroy any Catholic conspiracies against the Protestant Queen. His tactics ranged from intercepting letters to authorising torture, in the process employing a network of informers and experts.

Walsingham's most notable manoeuvre was the entrapment of Mary, Queen of Scots, having successfully implicated her in a plot to remove Elizabeth from the throne. To Mary's complaints of his underhand modus operandi, Walsingham replied: "I have done nothing unworthy of an honest man, and as secretary of state, nothing unbecoming my duty."



Walsingham was so valued by Elizabeth I that he was eventually paid £2,000 a year for his secret services. That's nearly £700,000 today.

THE TUDOR SPYMASTER
Elizabeth I and Francis Walsingham discuss Mary, Queen of Scots' conspiracy

MATA HARI

(1876-1917)

Nationality: Dutch
Allegiance: The Germans
Infiltrated: France

Margaretha Geertruida Zolle was more familiarly known as Mata Hari, a Dutch exotic dancer executed for being a German spy in World War I. Her fame – and the fact that the Dutch had remained neutral – meant Hari could travel freely across wartime Europe, where she enjoyed affairs with many politicians and military officers.

In 1917, French agents intercepted messages heading for Berlin that praised the efforts of a secret agent known as H-21, whom they identified as being Hari. Arrested in Paris, she was put on trial, charged with passing information that had led to the deaths of up to tens of thousands of soldiers. Despite pleading innocence (“my international connections are due of my work as a dancer, nothing else”), she faced a firing squad in October 1917.



ULTIMATE FEMME FATALE
The dancer Mata Hari, photographed c1905, aged around 29 (main) and on the day of her capture on 13 February 1917 (top left)

The French dossier on Mata Hari – filled with information on her secret missions – is scheduled for public release in 2017.

GUY BURGESS

(1911-63)

Nationality: British
Allegiance: The Soviets
Infiltrated: British high society

Alongside Anthony Blunt, Kim Philby and Donald Maclean, Burgess was one of the infamous Cambridge Ring, a collection of Cambridge Uni alumni who spied for the Soviet Union

during World War II and the post-war years. After graduating, Burgess took advantage of his career's impressive trajectory to supply the Soviets with precious information. As a BBC radio producer (ultimately of the flagship programme *The Week in Westminster*), he met the highest-ranking politicians; while working in the Foreign Office communications department, he had access to copious classified materials, which he regularly passed on.

When, in 1951, the net began to close on the Cambridge Ring, he and Maclean escaped to the Soviet Union. But Burgess maintained links with Britain, and continued to order suits from Savile Row. He died in 1963, aged 52.



Guy Burgess rubbed shoulders with the powerful elite



Belle Boyd became a seductress of the South during the American Civil War

BELLE BOYD

(1843-1900)

Nationality: American
Allegiance: The Confederacy
Infiltrated: The Union Army

Isabella ‘Belle’ Boyd was one of the most effective spies during the American Civil War. A Confederate supporter, Union forces suspected her of espionage and imprisoned her on several occasions, but each time Boyd's charms seemed to save her. On one occasion, she endowed herself to one of the officers sent to keep her under surveillance; “To him,” she announced, “I am indebted for some very remarkable effusions, some withered flowers, and a great deal of important information.”

Boyd undertook many dangerous missions, even coming under fire behind enemy lines as she attempted to get information to Confederate officers. General Stonewall Jackson once wrote to her in praise of her “immense service” to the Confederate cause.

SHI PEI PU

(1938-2009)

Nationality: Chinese
Allegiance: The Chinese
Infiltrated: French diplomatic circles

Shi Pei Pu was a Chinese opera singer who, during the sixties, embarked on an affair with a junior French diplomat called Bernard Boursicot. Although male, the singer told Boursicot that he was a woman living as a man; the sexually naïve Boursicot even believed his lover had given birth to their child, a boy that Shi had actually bought from a doctor. In 1986, the pair were found guilty of passing information to the Chinese authorities and, despite the low-grade quality of the intelligence passed, the pair were sentenced to six years in prison (although they were pardoned the following year). Prior to the trial, however, Shi had been examined to determine his true gender.

The words of the French newscaster were blunt and to the point: “The Chinese Mata Hari, who was accused of spying, is a man.”



Opera singer Shi Pei Pu, whose covert life and love inspired the Broadway play *M Butterfly*



OLEG PENKOVSKY

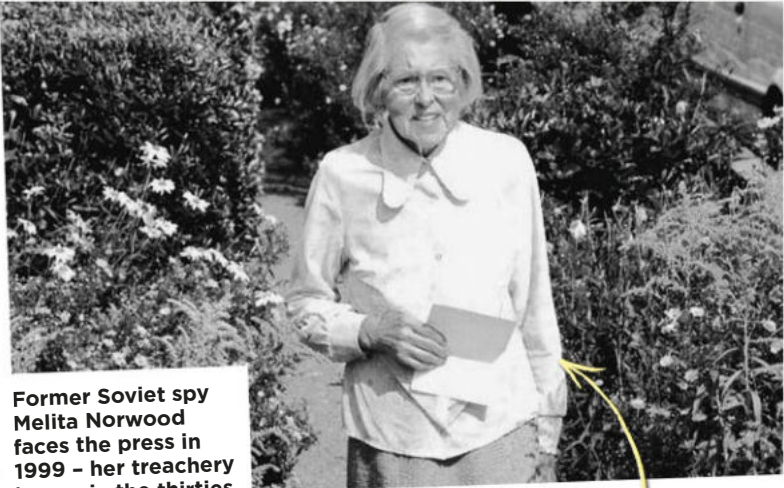
(1919-63)

Nationality: Soviet
Allegiance: The Americans
Infiltrated: The Soviet army

Penkovsky was a well-decorated Soviet Army officer who, while working in intelligence after World War II, was often slighted for his father's connections to the Tsar in pre-revolutionary Russia. Despite being a Communist Party member, Penkovsky grew disillusioned with the Soviet cause and decided to pass classified information about the location of nuclear missiles to the West.

Over a 14-month period, he handed over 5,000 secret papers to Britain and the US. Soviet double agents discovered Penkovsky's subterfuge and, in 1963, he was sentenced to death. He is remembered for being the man who alerted the West to Soviet missile bases on Cuba, thus playing a significant part in preventing a potential World War III.

ABOVE: Penkovsky – possibly the West's most valuable Cold War double agent
LEFT: Code books and radio instructions found among Penkovsky's possessions



Former Soviet spy Melita Norwood faces the press in 1999 – her treachery began in the thirties

MELITA NORWOOD

(1912-2005)

Nationality: British
Allegiance: The Soviets
Infiltrated: The British defence industry

Her neighbours in south-east London just knew Melita Norwood as a benign great-grandmother, albeit one who put up anti-Trident posters in her window and who devotedly read the Communist *Morning Star* (she bought 32 copies of every edition to pass on to friends). But in 1999, the then-87-year-old was revealed to have leaked atomic secrets to the KGB for the best part of 40 years, while working at the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association during the mid-20th century. Her information enabled the Soviets to complete their own atomic bomb a full two years ahead of schedule. Having been tracked down and doorstepped by reporters in leafy suburbia, Norwood became known as “the spy who came in from the Co-op”.

Though Melita's actions were uncovered in 1966, MI5 did not interview her, and she continued to leak information until her retirement in 1977.



FREEDOM FIGHTER
Noor, aka Madeleine, whose final word as she faced the German firing squad was ‘Liberté’

Noor was the great-great-great-granddaughter of an 18th-century Sultan of the Mysore Kingdom, India, leading to her nickname, the ‘Spy Princess’.

NOOR INAYAT KHAN

(1914-44)

Nationality: British, of Indian descent
Allegiance: The British
Infiltrated: Nazi-occupied France

Born in St Petersburg to Indian parents, Noor Inayat Khan grew up in London and France before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1940. As a wireless operator, she was recruited to the Special Operations Executive (SOE) where her radio expertise and her flawless French made her ideal for covert operations in occupied France. Working as part of the Prosper resistance movement, she broadcast secret agents' messages back to London, constantly moving around to evade arrest.

Finally captured after a tip-off, she was placed in solitary confinement and kept in chains, but refused to offer up a single piece of information to her German captors. Khan was shot by firing squad at Dachau concentration camp in September 1944 and was posthumously awarded the George Cross five years later for her brave and dangerous undercover work.



Agent Garbo
- possibly the
greatest double
agent of all time

JOAN PUJOL GARCIA

(1911-88)

Nationality: Spanish

Allegiance: The British

Infiltrated: The German army

There are agents. There are double agents. And then there is Agent Garbo. Born Joan Pujol Garcia in Barcelona in 1912, his distaste for the communist and fascist regimes of Europe during World War II led to him support the Allies in a highly imaginative way. Having created the persona of a Nazi-sympathising Spanish government official, he was successfully recruited as a German agent, before offering his services to the British as a double agent. Pretending to have relocated to London, he instead settled in Lisbon where he fed the Nazis bogus intelligence that he simply created out of thin air.

His input in Operation Fortitude, where the Germans were misled about the D-Day Landings, was especially vital. Pujol's double life was so successful that, in 1944, he was awarded both the Iron Cross and the MBE.

ANCIENT SPY NETWORKS

Forget the CIA and KGB. The formal organisation of spies goes back millennia

Initially wheat collectors, the Frumentarii were the secret service of the Roman Empire during the second and third centuries AD, responsible for discovering information about the threats to the vast empire. Emperor Hadrian recognized that the existing wheat collectors, who covered vast areas and came into contact with all strata of society, should be the eyes and ears on the ground, collecting intelligence to improve imperial security.

"To remain in ignorance of the enemy's condition simply because one grudges the outlay of 100 ounces of silver ... is the height of inhumanity." Thus wrote Sun Tzu (544-496 BC), the Chinese military general, in his treatise *The Art Of War*. He believed the cost of a formal spy network was a justifiable and sensible investment when compared to the loss of both life and money if an army has little trustworthy intelligence to hand.

Even earlier was King Muwatallis, ruler of the Hittites in Anatolia during the 13th century BC, who is believed to be the first leader to engage the services of spies. But his spies weren't charged with securing information from the Egyptian enemy. Instead, he deployed them to disseminate false information, luring the Pharaoh's troops into ambushes.

TOP SECRET

FRITZ JOUBERT DUQUESNE

(1877-1956)

Nationality: South Africa

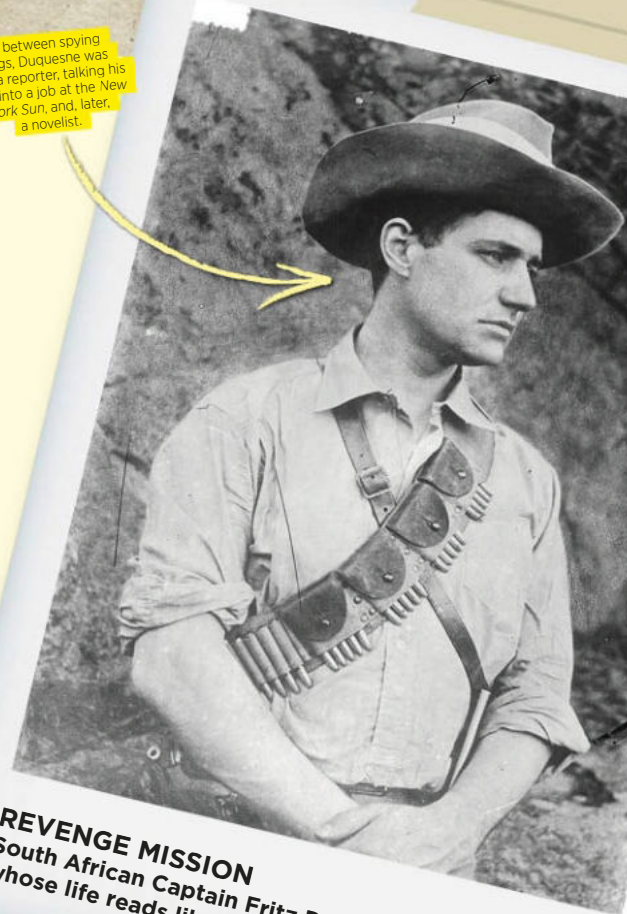
Allegiance: Anyone but the Brits, mainly the Germans

Infiltrated: Various

The life of South African Fritz Duquesne was crammed with adventure, espionage, capture, escapes, explosions, multiple identities and untruths. Having learned of the grave treatment of his sister and mother in a British concentration camp during the Boer Wars, Duquesne vowed vengeance. He signed up as a German spy during World War I and, while operating in South America, planted bombs on British merchant ships, claiming to have sunk 22 vessels.

Then, in June 1916 - while posing as a Russian duke - he accompanied Field Marshal Lord Kitchener on board HMS *Hampshire* in Scotland, claiming to have given the signal for a German submarine to torpedo the vessel, but only after he'd made his escape. He became known as "the spy who killed Kitchener", despite the ship having actually hit a German mine.

In between spying gigs, Duquesne was also a reporter, talking his way into a job at the New York Sun, and, later, a novelist.



REVENGE MISSION
South African Captain Fritz Duquesne c1900,
whose life reads like a rejected Bond screenplay

GET HOOKED

WATCH

If these extraordinary spies have whet your appetite, check out BBC History Magazine's special publication *The Secret History of Spies* (turn the page for details) for more amazing true stories. Or, for some fictional espionage action, Bond's latest mission, *Spectre*, is set to hit cinemas nationwide on 26 October. Visit www.007.com.

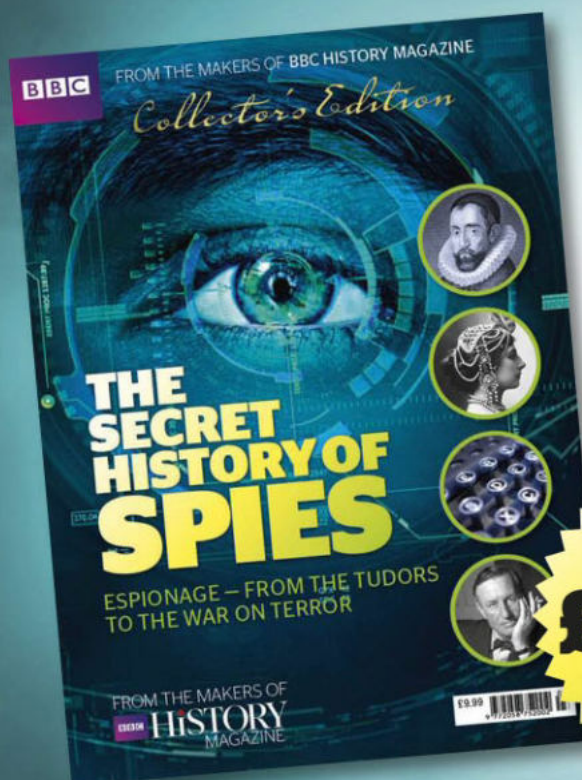


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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

IN A NUTSHELL p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p85 • **WHAT IS IT?** p86

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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HALLOWEEN TREAT

Scary or grotesque faces were first carved into Jack O'Lanterns to ward off evil spirits



DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT A DIL-EMMA

The great Viking, Harald Hardrada, allegedly owned a chain-mail shirt so tough that no spear could pierce it, and so long it looked like a dress. He named his special armour 'Emma'. At the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066, however, Hardrada left Emma behind – and was killed.

WHY DO PEOPLE CARVE PUMPKINS AT HALLOWEEN?



The centuries-old tradition of carving pumpkins (or initially turnips) starts with 'will-o'-the-wisps' – the mysterious balls of glowing light from folklore, seen over marshland and bogs.


An Irish version of the wisp legend describes how a sinful drunkard,

Stingy Jack, tricked the Devil and so wasn't allowed into Heaven or Hell when he died. Instead, he had to wander the land forevermore with an ember burning in a turnip to light his way. In Ireland and Scotland, people began making their own 'Jack O'Lanterns', or 'punkies', out

of carved turnips or mangelwurzels liberated from farmers' fields, attached to pieces of string with candles inside. When the custom reached the United States, the in-season (and therefore stealable) crop was the pumpkin – which was larger, and so easier to carve. **SL**

CORBIS

What was Britain's earliest town?

 Historically speaking, the earliest recorded British town – according to the established Mediterranean urban model – was created by the Romans at Colchester, c49 AD. The blueprint for *Colonia Victricensis* (the 'City of Victory') was a freshly abandoned legionary fortress, itself built directly within Camulodunum, a large settlement of an indigenous Celtic tribe. The town could hardly be said to have enjoyed much victory, however, as it was obliterated during the revolt of the British Queen Boudicca in AD 60, during which the relatively new Roman towns of London and St Albans were also razed. When rebuilding came, it was London that became the pre-eminent city in Britannia.

Yet if we consider a town to include street planning, settlement 'zoning' with elite housing and food storage, religious buildings and areas of industrial activity contained within a defensive boundary, then there are examples from long before the Roman Conquest. The British hillforts of the Iron Age (c600–100 BC), such as Danebury in Hampshire or Maiden Castle in Dorset, would represent the earliest towns. It has also been suggested the late-Neolithic housing found within the henge of Durrington Walls in Wiltshire (c2600 BC) is of an urban nature. MR

Could the Iron Age hillfort of Maiden Castle in Dorset be one of Britain's oldest towns?



DID YOU KNOW?

KEEPING AHEAD

When the Elizabethan explorer Sir Walter Raleigh was executed in 1618, his severed head was presented to his wife, who, it is said, kept it with her for the rest of her life, carried in a red-leather bag.

12,000

The number of marine molluscs required to make 1.5 grams of purple dye in the ancient era.

“GO TO HEAVEN FOR THE CLIMATE, HELL FOR THE COMPANY.”

MARK TWAIN (1835–1910)

Easily one of America's most important writers, Mark Twain is not only beloved for his acerbic and satirical social commentary and his evocative storytelling – both of which fill every page of his 'great American novel', *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – but for always been armed with a witty quip. His notebooks, where this quote comes from, were filled with them.

WHO INVENTED LEMONADE?


 There is a lot of debate as to when lemons were first used in food and drink.

The tree was probably indigenous to India or China, but it's not yet been proven when the fruit made its way westwards into the Mediterranean. Citrus fruits may be visible in Roman mosaics, but these could be citron.

The earliest definitive cultivation of the lemon tree was in medieval Arabia, and the first description of a sweetened lemon drink can be found in Egypt during the time of the Crusades. Starting in Tudor England, lemon juice was used in medicinal cordials called 'Water Imperial', along with cream of tartare, and would retain a healing reputation for centuries.

Samuel Pepys was one of many Londoners who, by the 1660s, was enjoying the refreshing new beverage of sweet lemon juice, mixed with honey and water, imported from France. The addition of bubbles had to wait, however, until 1767, when English chemist Joseph Priestley invented carbonated water, a technique exploited by Johann Jacob Schwebbe, whose commercial drinks company began selling fizzy soda in England in the 1790s. By 1833, ginger beer and carbonated lemonade were widely available at Britain's refreshment stalls. GJ

WHY IS THE EPSOM HORSE RACE KNOWN AS 'THE DERBY'?

 The prestigious annual horse-racing event at Epsom Downs, Surrey, is officially named the 'Derby Stakes'. It first took place in 1780, as part of the anniversary celebrations for the first run of another race, the Oaks Stakes, a year earlier. There was a debate over whether the event should be named after the host – Edward Smith Stanley, the Earl of Derby – or esteemed guest Sir Charles Bunbury, but the former won out (perhaps after a coin toss). Bunbury, however, had his revenge when his colt Diomed won the inaugural race, on 4 May 1780. EB

IN A NUTSHELL APARTHEID

For the second half of the 20th century, South Africa was torn apart by a brutal system of racial segregation



What is apartheid?

An Afrikaans word for 'separation' – literally, 'separateness' – apartheid was used to describe the system of political and economic discrimination imposed against non-whites in South Africa. It was implemented by the governing party, the National Party of South Africa, from 1948 until 1994.

How did it start?

Segregation according to race wasn't new to South Africa, as racial legislation in the country can be seen as early as 1806. But it was greatly extended with the Population Registration Act of 1950, which divided South Africans into four categories: Bantu (black South Africans), Coloured (those of mixed race), White and Asian (Indian and Pakistani South Africans). The Act was designed to preserve white supremacy in the country.

What was living under apartheid like?

The effects of apartheid touched every aspect of daily life. By 1950, marriage and sexual relations between white and non-white South Africans were banned, while a series of Land Acts meant more than 80 per cent of the country's land was set aside for

the white minority. Black men and women were forced to live in ten so-called 'black homelands', where they were permitted to run businesses. To live and work in designated 'white areas', they required permits. Hospitals, ambulances, buses and public facilities were all segregated, and non-white participation in government was denied.

The impact on South Africa's non-white population was horrific. Families were often split by the laws (if parents were black and white, their children were classed as 'coloured') and, between 1961 and 1994, 3.5 million people were forcibly removed from their homes. Their land was sold for a fraction of its price, plunging non-whites into severe poverty and despair.

What happened to those who broke the laws?

South Africans caught disobeying apartheid could be imprisoned, fined or whipped, while those suspected of being in a racially mixed relationship were hunted down under the Immorality Acts of 1927 and 1950. Most 'guilty' couples were sent to prison. If a black man or woman was found

without their 'dompas' – a passport containing fingerprints, photograph, personal details of employment and permission from the government to be in a particular part of the country – they could be imprisoned as well. More than 250,000 black South Africans were arrested each year under these Pass Laws.

Who fought apartheid?

In 1952, the first significant, non-violent political campaign took place – the Defiance Campaign. For four months, more than 8,000 volunteers deliberately flouted the laws of apartheid by refusing to carry passes, violating curfews and using public places and facilities designated for white-use only. The campaign, run by the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Indian Congress, generated a mass upsurge for freedom within South Africa itself, and attracted the attention of the United Nations.

Other episodes of resistance took place throughout the period, including demonstrations, protests, strikes, political action and eventually armed resistance. In 1960, one act of protest saw at least 69 unarmed black people killed and 180 wounded

when the police opened fire at a protest in the poor black township of Sharpsville.

What about Nelson Mandela?

Nelson Mandela – President of the ANC Youth League – was Volunteer-in-Chief of the 1952 Defiance Campaign. He went on to play a leading role in generating large-scale resistance to apartheid and, in 1961, introduced a controversial, armed wing of the ANC – 'Umkhonto we Sizwe' (Spear of the Nation).

Mandela's involvement in both peaceful and armed resistance led to a 27-year prison sentence where he was subjected to appalling and inhumane conditions. His story became famous around the world.

How did apartheid end?

In 1973, the UN had denounced apartheid, but things came to a head in 1976, when police opened fire with tear gas and bullets against school children in Soweto. The violence caused outrage and a UN embargo on the sale of arms to South Africa was introduced, followed, in 1985, by economic sanctions by the UK and US.

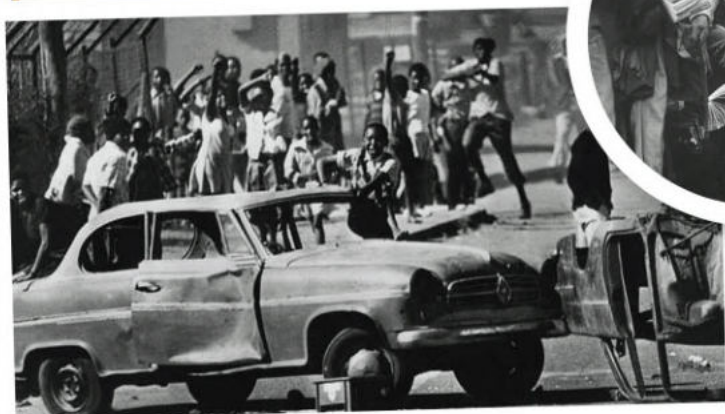
With mounting international pressure, some apartheid laws were revoked. In 1990, the world watched as Nelson Mandela was released from prison, whereupon he continued to campaign. Four years later, on 26 April 1994, more than 22 million South Africans took part in the first multiracial parliamentary elections, voting in the ANC with Nelson Mandela sworn in as the country's first black president.



FIGHT FOR FREEDOM Black South Africans risked their lives by protesting, as the police could, at any moment, open fire



Young protestors hide behind a car (left) during the Soweto riots in 1976; another way for black people to flout apartheid was to burn their pass books (above)



The Emperor had the final say over who won a bout

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

THE COLOSSEUM

Enter Rome's theatre of death, where tens of thousands of people and animals were slaughtered for the entertainment of the mob



The Flavian Amphitheatre, better known as the Colosseum, is both a marvel of architecture and engineering, as well as a powerful symbol of Ancient Rome's might and brutality. The largest amphitheatre ever built, it took ten years to construct, could hold 50,000 spectators at its peak and enjoyed centuries as a centre of entertainment in the heart of Rome. From its dedication in AD 80 until the fall of the Empire, the rich and poor, noble and plebian flocked to the Colosseum to watch gladiatorial games, executions and animal hunts. It was a place of spectacle and slaughter.

TIERED HIERARCHY

The lower a person's tier, the higher their position in society. So Senators sat in the bottom level, closest to the action. Not everyone was welcome in the Colosseum - actors, the grave diggers and former gladiators couldn't attend.

NEED TO VOMIT

Vomitoria, the many passageways into the arena (named after the Latin word for 'spew forth') allowed the Colosseum, even when filled with 50,000 spectators, to empty in minutes.

SHIP-SHAPED STADIUM

A retractable cloth awning - providing shade and shelter to a section of the crowd - was held up by 240 large masts (only the holes remain). The *velarium* had to be operated by sailors from Rome's fleet.

DEEP DOWN

To support the 48-metre-tall outer wall (made of travertine limestone from 20 miles away), the concrete foundations had to go down some 12 metres.

CAUGHT RED SANDED

The 83-metre-long arena had a wooden floor, which was covered by a layer of sand to absorb the blood. To disguise the gore entirely, the sand was occasionally dyed red.

OUTER BEAUTY

Each ring of arches on the outer wall has its own column design, with Doric at the bottom, then Ionic and Corinthian at the top. Between the arches were statues of Roman emperors and gods.

ROMAN RUINS

Today, only a section of the outer wall still stands

FIND YOUR SEAT

Much like modern stadiums, spectators were given tickets (made of pottery), which led them to a specific gate and staircase so they could find their level. The 76 public entrances were numbered 1 to LXXVI.

THE BEST VIEW IN THE HOUSE

The Emperor and his retinue occupied a special box, known as the *cubiculum*. It was on the first tier and raised to improve his view.

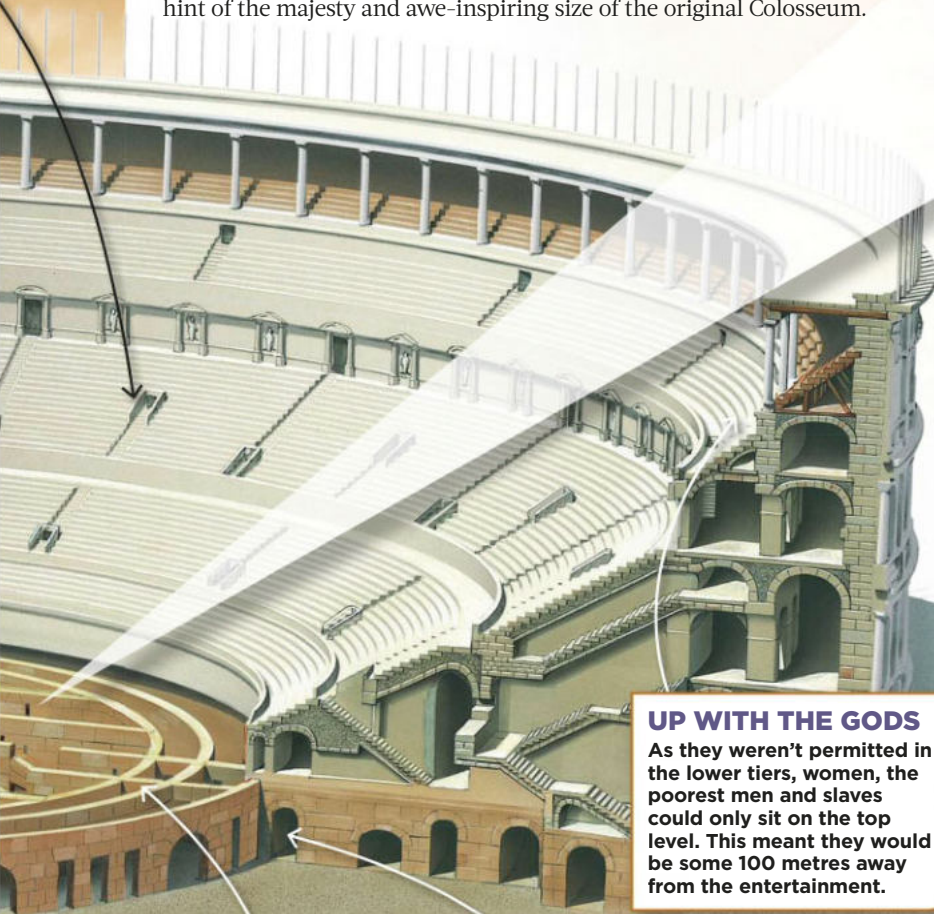


WHO FOUGHT?

Those sitting in the Colosseum could expect a host of different kinds of combat. A gladiator would either fight one-on-one against a man of equal strength and size or take on wild animals. Group battles were also common. There were many classes of gladiator, depending on their weapon of choice – such as swords, nets, tridents and spears – and the style of combat they specialised in, so a ‘Thraex’ wielded a short sword and shield while an ‘Eques’ fought on horseback. Although most fighting men were criminals, prisoners of war or slaves, some were volunteers seeking glory and riches.

AFTER THE ROMANS

Following the downfall of the Roman Empire, the Colosseum was no longer used for gladiatorial games. It fell into disrepair as lightning and earthquakes caused severe damage, including the collapse of one side of the outer wall. Yet, greater damage was done by those stealing the rocks and marble to use on other construction sites. For centuries, the Colosseum became a quarry. Today, we can only get a hint of the majesty and awe-inspiring size of the original Colosseum.



UP WITH THE GODS

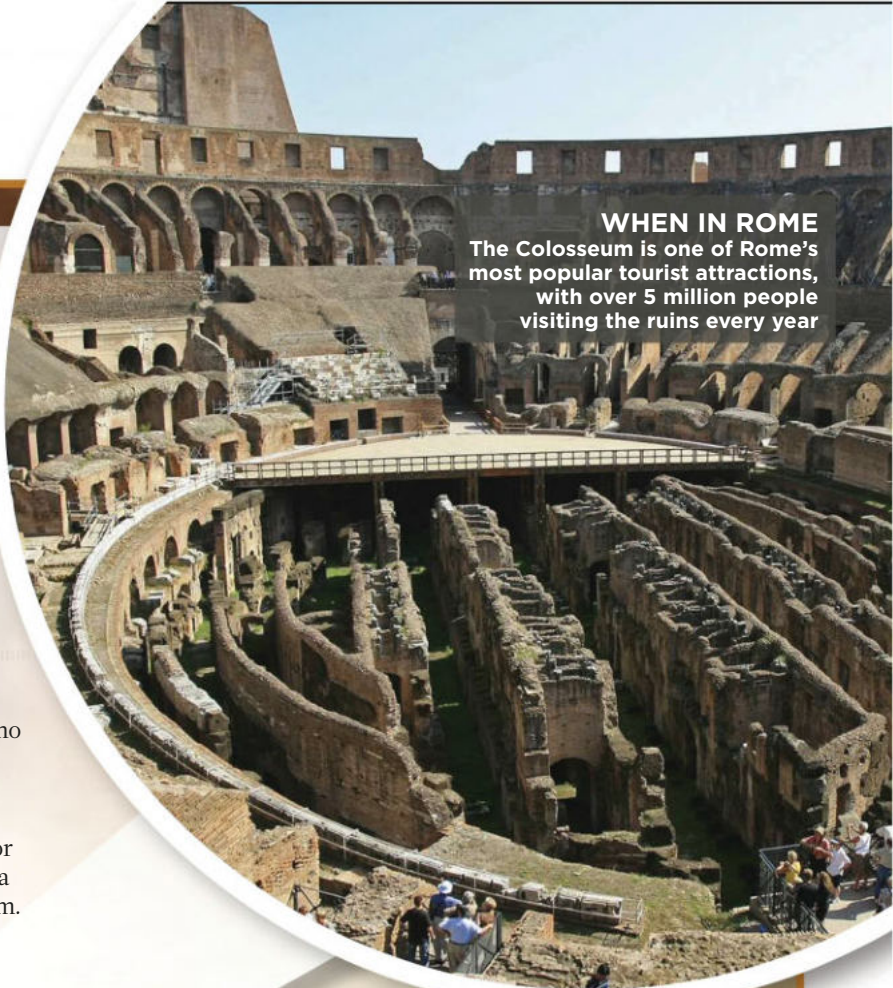
As they weren't permitted in the lower tiers, women, the poorest men and slaves could only sit on the top level. This meant they would be some 100 metres away from the entertainment.

UNDERGROUND MAZE

A network of tunnels – the *hypogeum* – ran beneath the arena floor. From there, pulley systems, platforms and trap doors allowed animals and gladiators to be raised for dramatic openings to contests.

SECRET TUNNELS

There were tunnels leading from the *hypogeum* out of the Colosseum. Some were connected to nearby gladiator fighting schools, while another allowed the Emperor to avoid the crowds.



WHEN IN ROME

The Colosseum is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions, with over 5 million people visiting the ruins every year

THE GREATEST SPECTACLES

WILD BEASTS

It is thought 1 million animals died fighting either men or other creatures. Elephants, lions, bears, crocodiles, giraffes, rhinos and hippos were brought from around the known world.

SEA BATTLES

There are records from the early years of the Colosseum claiming that the arena was flooded with water so that historic naval battles could be reconstructed.

CHRISTIAN MARTYRS?

It has often been said that, as well as criminal executions, the Colosseum was the site of numerous martyrdoms of Christians, yet there is no evidence to support this.



WHY DO WE SAY...

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Like so many phrases and traditions, 'in the limelight' – describing someone who is the centre of attention – was born in the theatre.

As limelight gave out a brilliant white light that could be moved and focused, it perfectly fitted as the source of what would be the first spotlight. It had been invented in the early 1800s by heating calcium oxide with a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen, and proved helpful to Scottish civil engineer Thomas Drummond during his survey of Ireland's mountain peaks. He could reportedly see the light from 68 miles away. From its first use in the theatre, in the 1830s, the benefits of limelight over the standard gas lamps were instantly clear. Not only did it simulate natural light effectively and draw focus to the lead actor, but it was much less of a fire risk, which was a massive boon in a room filled with an audience.

WHERE DOES THE PUB NAME 'PIG AND WHISTLE' COME FROM?

In 1393, King Richard II decreed every publican must, by law, "hang out a sign, otherwise he shall forfeit his ale." As there were so many inns in a town, however, each one needed a different name to avoid confusion.

Over the years, these monikers became to mean something different from their original purpose so the 'Pig and Whistle' has several possible origins. The 'whistle' is from the Anglo-Saxon greeting 'wassail' (or 'good health') while 'pig' may come from the Saxon word for a milking bucket, 'piggen'. So it stands to reason that ale may have been served in pails with customers dipping in their mugs, or 'pigs', into the wassail bowl. A rather more holy theory is that it comes from 'Pige-Washail', the salutation by the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary. SL

THE HAM AND HISS
Today, there are dozens of 'Pig and Whistles'



WHAT'S THE OLDEST SONG?

For as long as they've been speaking, human beings have been singing and making music. Yet, despite claims that songs from ancient civilisations have been recovered – found carved into walls or impressed into clay tablets – it is nearly impossible to reconstruct ancient lyrics and melodies. Arguably the earliest-known song, with both melody and lyrics recorded intact, from antiquity is the 'Epitaph of Seikilos', a funerary piece intended for voice and the string instrument, the lyre. It survived and, in an engraving from the first century AD, contains these sobering lyrics:

*While you live, shine
Do not suffer anything at all
life exists only for a short while
and time demands its toll. MR*

THE TUNE RUNES
The oldest-known complete song was found engraved on a tombstone in Turkey



HORSING AROUND
A horse-bone ice skate, worn by the Vikings



HOW OLD ARE ICE SKATES?

The Yorkshire Museum in York boasts a lovely array of ice skates made by the Vikings, which they carved from smoothed animal bones. We might expect these to be the oldest ever found but, in fact, archaeologists have discovered skates dating back 5,000 years to the late Stone Age. It's believed that the prehistoric Finns – who lived near and had to deal with a great many narrow lakes – probably took the first steps onto the frozen ice while wearing bone skates, strapped to their feet with leather thongs. GJ

20

The daily quota of cigarettes allowed for US troops in World War II

Did Julius Caesar really wear a laurel wreath?

According to the Roman historian (and dreadful gossip) Suetonius, Julius Caesar was quite the dandy. He shaved, trimmed and plucked any unwanted body hair with tweezers but he was mortified to be as bald as the proverbial coot. Now the comb-over is rarely seen as a good look, but Caesar tried to hide his hairlessness by growing the few strands he did have and sweeping them over his head.

On the day that the Roman Senate voted him the honour of wearing a laurel wreath on all occasions, Suetonius tells us that Caesar was overjoyed. Not only did it prove how powerful he was, it was the perfect disguise for his shiny pate. SL

CAESAR HAS TOUPEE
An embarrassed Julius Caesar would wear a laurel wreath to hide his baldness



ALFRED AND THE ANGLO-SAXON ALLIES
Alfred the Great's defeat of the Vikings helped stop fighting between the Anglo-Saxons

DID YOU KNOW?

THE SLEEK PONY

The first British female name to be recorded is 'Cartimandua'. Mentioned by Roman historian Tacitus in AD 51, she was a Brigantes Queen and her name can be translated as 'Sleek Pony'.

WERE THERE MANY WARS BETWEEN THE ANGLO-SAXON KINGDOMS?

Throughout human history, every tribal society has engaged in competition and this has often spilled over into open hostility. The early English were no different.

By the seventh century, the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Britain had formalised into the 'Heptarchy' of Wessex, Sussex, Essex, Kent, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria. They were in a near permanent state of conflict and political manoeuvring, ranging from strategic marriage

alliances to border raids and all-out war. Of all the kingdoms, it was Mercia, in the English Midlands, that was eventually to reign supreme.

That lasted until the arrival of the Danes in the ninth century. It was actually the presence of all-conquering and vicious Viking armies that forced the English to put aside their animosities and unite, which helped cement the authority of Wessex, under King Alfred, and define Saxon identity in the face of sustained attack. MR

WHAT IS IT?

They may look like treasures from an Ancient Egyptian tomb, but these were actually discovered on a hill in Edinburgh. In June 1836, a group of young boys were hunting rabbits on the slopes of Arthur's Seat when they stumbled on a bizarre set of 17 elaborately carved figures – each one less than 10cm tall and resting in their own coffin. No one knows who made them, or why. Were they used by witches, as initially reported, or to pay respect to the 17 victims of Edinburgh's murderous duo, Burke and Hare? We may never know. The eight surviving coffins are now held by the National Museum of Scotland. www.nms.ac.uk



WHEN DID WE START USING SURNAMES?



Surnames came into common use around the early Middle

Ages so that people could distinguish between persons of the same given name. They were selected by making some reference to either their occupation ('Taylor' or 'Smith' for example), personal characteristics (such as 'Strong' or 'Brown'), or location of their residence (like 'Wood' or 'Marsh'). Others, now common, came from a child taking their father's name – including Johnson (the son of John) and Macdonald (son of Donald).

As travel began to grow and communities met with more strangers, the practice became more general. From around the 1200s, a person's adopted name was commonly passed on to the next generation and so the inherited surname was born. So it is possible our names are likely to tell us something about one of our distant ancestors. EB



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HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • PAST LIVES p92 • BOOKS p94

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

EXHIBITION

Egypt: Faith after the Pharaohs

Opens 29 October at the British Museum, London; search at www.britishmuseum.org

Ancient Egypt is best-known for its Pharaohs, pyramids and plethora of gods, but what came after all that? That is the question the British Museum's major exhibition hopes to answer. The **1,200-year journey begins in 30 BC**, when Egypt became a part of the Roman Empire, and features seismic changes in the country. Hundreds of artefacts show how **Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities** came, went and came again – transforming religion in Egypt from the worship of dozens of gods, to one.



MAIN: In 1896, Rabbi Solomon Schechter uncovered thousands of Hebrew manuscripts in Egypt
RIGHT: A statue of Egyptian god Horus in Roman uniform
FAR RIGHT: A first-century bronze head of Augustus

EXHIBITION

The 1857-58 Delegation Portraits

Ends 15 November at Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford; free admission, find out more at www.prm.ox.ac.uk

In the winter of 1857, delegates from eight Native American tribes travelled to Washington DC, where photographers Julian Vannerson and Samuel Cohner took a series of portraits – some of the **earliest taken of Native Americans**. This is a wonderful opportunity to see their strikingly sincere and powerful work.

The portrait of a warrior of the Yankton Nakota tribe, named He-kha'-ka Ma-ni (Walking Elk)



Crawford flew in a Lancaster, but was shot down in April 1945

WEBSITE

Jack's Journal

www.jackcrawford-ww2-journal.net

Dip into the revealing journals, painstakingly transcribed, of Royal New Zealand Air Force officer Jack Crawford, who was **killed in action, aged 23**, during WWII.



Could this be the most lavish setting for a pub quiz ever?

EVENT

'Pub' Quiz

30 November, 6.30pm, Banqueting House, London; booking essential – search at www.hrp.org.uk

This is not really a pub quiz, rather a palace quiz. Under Banqueting House's glorious ceiling, **test your knowledge of sport, art, food and history** as the Historic Royal Palaces race through 1,000 years in one night. Tickets for this unique event cost £15 (or £12 for HRP members).



WWI tunnellers – possibly the toughest job in the trenches

EXHIBITION

When Dai Became Tommy

Runs at the National Wool Museum, Carmarthenshire, until 31 January 2016; more at www.museumwales.ac.uk/wool

A touching community exhibition commemorating the experiences of Welsh men who left their mines when World War I was declared and **signed up as tunnellers** – who dug under the trenches in extremely dangerous conditions.



Tintagel Castle's new exhibition includes a replica of the Artognou stone (above) – believed to be a link to the mythical king

EXHIBITION

Tintagel and King Arthur

At Tintagel Castle, Cornwall; find out more at www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/tintagel-castle

Staring out to the rugged ruins of Tintagel Castle, perched on the Cornish coast, it is easy to see how they remain a romantic link to the legends of King Arthur. Once visitors have **climbed the 148 steps and crossed the bridge** to the castle's headland, they are treated to unrivalled (and almost mythical) views while wandering the remains of the Great Hall, chapel and walled gardens.

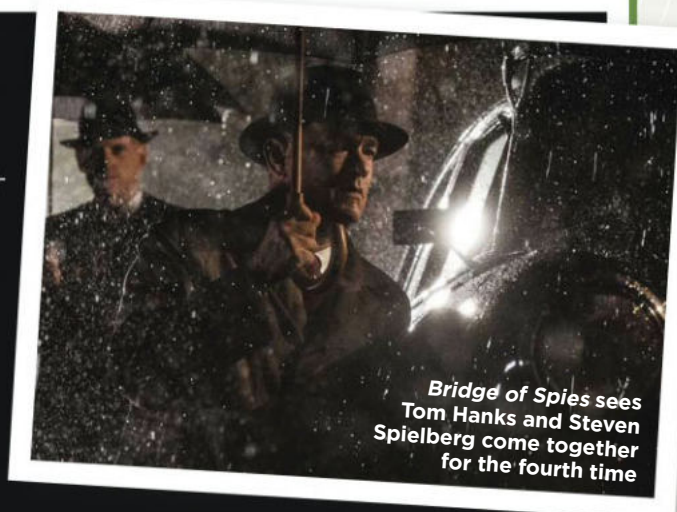
Now, a new exhibition explores Tintagel's connection with Arthur, which began with the **12th-century writer Geoffrey of Monmouth** and was secured when Richard, Earl of Cornwall, decided to build a fortification on the spot in the 13th century. As well as never-before-seen artefacts, the display also charts the development of Arthurian literature using beautifully made sculptures.

FILM

Bridge of Spies

In cinemas 27 November

Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring the ever-reliable Tom Hanks, this **gripping Cold War thriller** is already tipped for awards glory. With the world living in the shadow of nuclear war, Brooklyn lawyer James Donovan (Hanks) is thrust to the **centre of US-Soviet relations** as he tries to negotiate the release of an American pilot. *Bridge of Spies* promises to be a captivating watch.



Bridge of Spies sees Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg come together for the fourth time

► REMEMBRANCE 2015, 8 NOVEMBER

► Contribute to one of the many 'Fields of Remembrance' at sites across Britain, including Cardiff Castle, Westminster Abbey and Royal Wootton Bassett.
► The annual Festival of Remembrance, 7 November, Royal Albert Hall, London.
Find out more about both events at www.britishlegion.org.uk



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

SKARA BRAE ORKNEY

Beyond the northernmost tip of mainland Scotland lies a miraculously preserved 5,000-year-old settlement – the most complete Neolithic village in northern Europe

THE FACTS

GETTING THERE:

Skara Brae is 31km north west of Kirkwall on the B9056 (postcode KW16 3LR). Buses run from Kirkwall and Stromness.

TIMES AND PRICES:

Summer 9.30am–5.30pm, winter 10am–4pm. Tickets £3.70–£7.10.

FIND OUT MORE:

For general enquiries, call 01856 841 815 or visit www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/places



The wild storm that lashed Orkney in the winter of 1850 wasn't unusual in itself. Bad weather is a fact of life in these isolated Scottish islands, after all. But when William Graham Watt, the 7th Laird of Skaill, went to investigate the damage to his lands on the west coast of Orkney Mainland, he discovered something unexpected.

The powerful winds had scoured away the sand covering the mound known locally as Styerrabrae and

exposed the remains of very old stone houses – though quite how old, Watt had no idea. Curious, he began an amateur excavation of the site, removing the artefacts he found to his nearby home, Skaill House, where he displayed them in a little museum.

After uncovering four houses, in 1868 he abandoned the excavation. For more than 50 years, the spot attracted little attention, apart from an unwelcome visit in 1913 by diggers who plundered the houses

– taking what, we may never know for sure. Then, in 1924, another storm damaged one of the houses, making the need to study and preserve the site more urgent.

VILLAGE DISCOVERY

In 1928, Professor Vere Gordon Childe of the University of Edinburgh began a more rigorous, two-year excavation. This revealed not just fragmented ruins but the well-preserved remains of a prehistoric village of stone dwellings.



BLEAK HOUSES
The stone village of Skara Brae was built 5,000 years ago – and then buried under sand for a further four millennia

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 VISITOR CENTRE
The interactive visitor centre displays artefacts from the houses, including decorated stone objects.



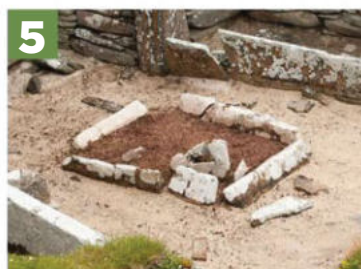
2 HOUSE EIGHT
Is it a workshop, a meeting house, an annexe? The decorated, bedless building intrigues visitors.



3 REPLICA HOUSE
Get a taste of life in an Orcadian household of 5,000 years ago, furnished with animal skins.



4 PASSAGES
Peer into the covered passageways, little more than one metre high. Crouch or kneel to enter.



5 HEARTHES
A central square fireplace is the heart of each windowless house, vital for heat, cooking and light.



6 FURNITURE
With virtually no wood available, all furniture was made of stone, including box beds and shelving.

“The site was occupied before the Pyramids were built”

Childe initially dated the site to the Iron Age – around 500 BC. In fact, as carbon-dating during extensive excavations in 1972 confirmed, the houses are much, much older. The settlement is Neolithic, founded around 3200 BC and inhabited for 600 years or so. It was abandoned possibly because of encroaching sea and sand (when founded, it was further from the coast than it is now) or because of changing lifestyles. In other words, the site now called Skara Brae was inhabited before either the Pyramids or Avebury were built. When Watt first laid eyes on the village, it had probably been buried for four millennia.

The Skara Brae site comprises eight well-preserved buildings made of flat stone, embedded in middens (rubbish heaps)

and linked by low, covered passageways. Seven seem to be homes, all similar in format – a square room of around 36m², with two stone-sided beds on either side of a central fireplace, stone storage boxes on the floor and a shelved storage or display unit on the wall opposite the doorway. The eighth building, accessed separately, has no beds, and may have served a non-residential function.

Artefacts unearthed at the site range from spiral-carved stone balls to the bones of sheep and cows, and remnants of fish and shellfish, indicating the main elements of the inhabitants' diet, along with barley and wheat – these were hunters, fishers and farmers.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

An exploration of Skara Brae begins at the excellent visitor

centre, where you'll see some of the artefacts recovered from the site, as well as learning more about the people who built and lived in the village. There are more artefacts at nearby Skail House. Next comes a replica house, complete with stone furnishings – it's easy to imagine settling into this dark, smoky but cosy home. Wandering among the exposed buildings (only House Seven is covered to protect it from further damage), life 5,000 years ago is brought vividly into focus.

And there's much more to discover nearby. Skara Brae is just part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, encompassing two stone circles, Maeshowe chambered cairn and several unexcavated sites. Coach tours stop here only briefly, but it's well worth dedicating at least a day to explore the area in detail. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

Orkney has dozens of stone circles, burial cairns and medieval buildings

MAESHOWE CHAMBERED CAIRN

Delve into the stone-lined passage of this monumental tomb within a grassy mound, etched with later Nordic runes.

MIDHOWE BROCH

Discover the well-preserved Iron Age stone tower and its surrounding village on Rousay.

CUBBIE'S ROW CASTLE

Explore one of the earliest stone castles to survive in Scotland, built around 1145 by the Norseman Kolbein Hruga.
All www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

PAST LIVES

HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

MURDERED IN MANCHESTER

Jon Bauckham recounts the tragic story of the Peterloo Massacre in 1819 – when soldiers turned on and attacked Manchester citizens

READER'S STORY



Janet E Davis,
*Newcastle
upon Tyne*

My great-great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Fildes, was President of the Manchester Female Reform Society – an organisation made up of local women who were campaigning for universal suffrage.

On the day of the Peterloo Massacre in 1819, Mary was standing on the hustings along with the speakers. As the militia rode into the crowd, she was hit with a truncheon by a special constable for refusing to give up her flag. When she then tried to leap off the platform, it is reported that her dress got caught on a nail and she was slashed across the middle by a sabre. She, luckily, escaped life-threatening injury.

Despite these awful experiences, Mary was determined to carry on campaigning. There was a lot of opposition to women radicals at the time, but she was prepared to make a stand for working people.

I didn't learn about Mary until reading the biography of one of her grandsons, Sir Samuel Luke Fildes, who became a famous artist. I just wish I had known about her during my teens – it would have inspired me to go into politics, although it's probably just as well I didn't!

Once violence erupted, it took only ten minutes for St Peter's Field to be emptied

On 16 August 1819, Elizabeth Healey left the house she shared with her young family ready for a busy day. She started walking towards St Peter's Field – a large stretch of open land in Manchester – where her husband, the militant social reformer Joseph Healey, was due to attend a rally organised by the Manchester Patriotic Union Society.

Joseph had been reluctant to let Elizabeth come along, but she was, in her own words, "determined" to watch. "I would have gone even if my husband had refused his consent," Elizabeth later recalled.

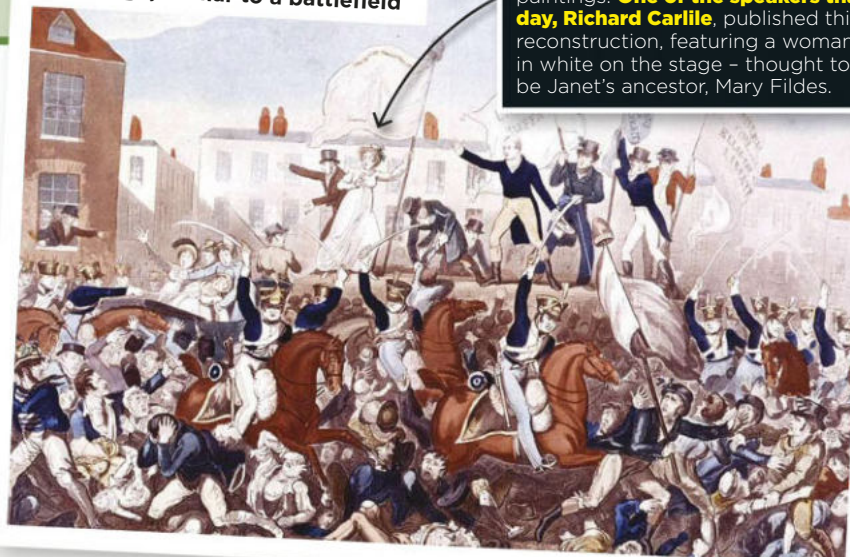
But if she thought this was going to be a minor meeting of far-left radicals, the sight at St Peter's Field came as a shock. Elizabeth was one of 60,000 people, gathered to call for parliamentary reform and protest against the poverty that blighted Britain's industrial cities. At the time, only a wealthy minority could vote and many places had no MPs.

As the main speaker, Henry 'Orator' Hunt, took to the stage, there was a carnival-like atmosphere. The Sun was shining and many people had even brought their children along. The jubilation, however, wasn't to last.

At some point, observing magistrates ordered the Manchester and Salford Yeomanry to charge at the stage and arrest the speakers, spreading fear through the crowd. Interpreting the actions of the panicked crowd as retaliation against the troops, the 15th Hussars stormed on to the scene and further carnage ensued. "The cavalry were

in confusion," wrote one of the onlookers. "They evidently could not, with all the weight of man and horse, penetrate that compact mass

What began as a peaceful protest transformed into a terrifying scene of carnage, similar to a battlefield



SURVIVORS' STORIES

Peterloo inspired a multitude of eyewitness accounts and paintings. **One of the speakers that day, Richard Carlile,** published this reconstruction, featuring a woman in white on the stage – thought to be Janet's ancestor, Mary Fildes.

of human beings... [they] chopped limbs and wound-gaping skulls were seen."

SLASHED BY SABRES

Shoemaker George Swift said he witnessed special constables being struck down despite "begging" the Yeomanry to recognise who they were. "They slashed amongst them and they squeaked out like your Irish pigs," Swift told his brother in a later letter.

Overall, it is believed that at least 11 people lost their lives at St Peter's Field, either crushed in the melee or from their sabre wounds. Not long afterwards, the massacre earned the name 'Peterloo' – an ironic reference to the Battle of Waterloo four years earlier, which had been fought by soldiers widely considered to be heroes, rather than brutes attacking unarmed civilians.

In a draconian response, the government quickly passed new laws intended to suppress future radical activity, but the making of martyrs in Manchester only strengthened calls for reform. Outrage over Peterloo arguably paved the way for Chartism, a movement that continued in the fight for a privilege we enjoy today: a vote for all, regardless of wealth. 🗳️

GET HOOKED

Further eyewitness accounts can be found at www.peterloomassacre.org and www.spartacus-educational.com/peterloo.html. The People's History Museum, Manchester, has excellent displays on Peterloo.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...

🐦 @Historyrevmag #pastlives
📘 www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed
✉ editor@historyrevealed.com



NEXT MONTH

ON SALE **12 NOVEMBER**

THE BLACK DEATH

The gruesome plague that
terrorised medieval Europe



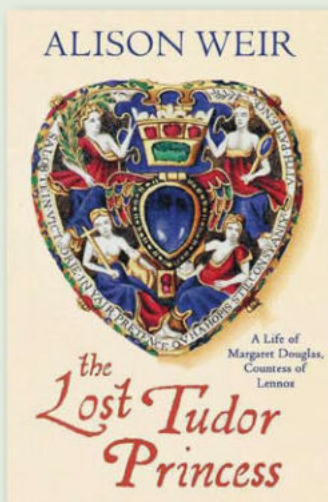
ALSO NEXT MONTH...

ROMAN BRITAIN PROHIBITION **STALIN AND**
THE COLD WAR COCO CHANEL'S FASHION
REVOLUTION **THE CROWN JEWELS** WRIGHT
BROTHERS' FIRST FLIGHT **AND MUCH MORE...**

HISTORY
REVEALED Bringing the past to life

BOOKS

BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Lost Tudor Princess: a Life of Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox

By Alison Weir
Jonathan Cape, £20,
560 pages, hardback

The pages of Tudor history are crowded with famous figures: Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I... Yet, leading historian Alison Weir argues, the life of a much less familiar character may be bound up with all of them. This 'lost Tudor princess', Margaret Douglas, was niece

of Henry VIII, lady-in-waiting to his wives and an important political figure in her own right. But, as explored in Weir's fascinating new book, Margaret's central position did not guarantee her safety. This is a great account of an apparently familiar period, seen afresh through new eyes.



Margaret Douglas was at the centre of Tudor politics but her compelling life is not well-remembered

MEET THE AUTHOR

Alison Weir delves into the life and times of Henry VIII's niece and explains why her intriguing and tragic story has been so little told

What inspired you to write this book?

I love the Tudor era, but it's a crowded field, so I casted around for subjects in the period that had not been covered by other recent books.

Many years ago, I did a lot of research on Henry VIII's niece, Margaret Douglas, and thought "Wow, what a story!". My publishers agreed – and it proved to be an even better story than I had thought.

What roles did Margaret play in the Tudor court?

She was an impulsive, feisty lady and, as Henry's niece, she was treated as a princess. Her chief role was as lady-of-honour to five of the King's wives, but her dynastic closeness to the throne meant that she was always and inevitably going to

be viewed as a political entity and, at times, a threat.

It was only when Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558 that Margaret found herself marginalised for her Catholic faith and royal blood. After that, she became an active, and subversive, political operator – and paid a terrible price.

How did Margaret survive the adversity she faced?

Much of the adversity that she faced was the result of her own political manoeuvring, and

it was almost always for love of one kind or another. She fell, twice, for the wrong man; she involved herself in intrigues that she knew to be dangerous; she spent four years in the Tower of London (and, at one point, was under sentence of death) and spent another year in house arrest. I believe it was only her strength of character that enabled her to survive it all.

Why do you think that Margaret's story isn't better known?

It does really puzzle me, as the story of her life is a highly dramatic one and it provides many missing links in the Tudor story. I think that people over the years have underestimated her importance. It amazes me

that she is missing from so many books on the period.

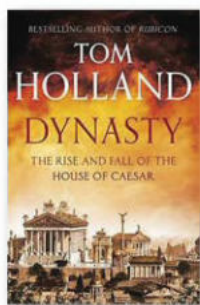
If you could travel back in time, what question would you ask Margaret?

As I'm a genealogist at heart, I would ask her the names of her four daughters. These are unrecorded – and yet there are beautiful images of them as weepers adorning Margaret's tomb in Westminster Abbey.

"She became an active political operator – and paid a terrible price"



THE BEST OF THE REST



Dynasty: the Rise and Fall of the House of Caesar

By Tom Holland
Little, Brown, £25, 512 pages, hardback

Glamour, glory, gore and cruelty: the dynasty founded by Roman Emperor Augustus was not for those who wanted a quiet life. Holland's fast-paced account of the imperial family – boasting names such as Nero and Caligula – and the social world they inhabited in the wake of the collapse of the Roman Republic is a brilliant introduction to the period.



Stranger Than We Can Imagine: Making Sense of the 20th Century

By John Higgs
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20, 352 pages, hardback

Confused by the modern world? Well, this book may have the answer. Chapters on familiar, if still-baffling, concepts (including relativity, nihilism and the id) are mixed with sections on less abstract, but still revolutionary, developments (from global war, mass surveillance and teenagers). It's a great and truly enlightening read.



The Secret History of the Blitz

By Joshua Levine
Simon & Schuster, £16.99, 272 pages, hardback

The German bombing of Britain during World War II – the 75th anniversary of which is being marked this year – irrevocably altered Britain's physical landscape and transformed society just as dramatically. Beyond the positivity and courage of the 'Blitz' spirit, Levine delves into a world of crime, theft and murder in a compelling new take on the conflict.

READ UP ON...

THE CELTS

Spread over Europe across hundreds of diverse tribes, reading up on the history of the Celts can be tricky. Here are three good places to start...



These Celtic carvings stand in an ancient church on White Island, near Northern Ireland

The Ancient Celts By Barry Cunliffe (1997)

Barry Cunliffe is one of the most famous names in his field, and his overview of thousands of years of Celtic history is a great place to discover more about a people who were both culturally sophisticated and skilled at fighting.



Pagan Britain By Ronald Hutton (2013)

Fascinated by legends of pagan druids and monuments? This look at Britain's ancient religions separates fact from fiction – as well as reminding us that there are some things about which we may never know the definitive truth.



UnRoman Britain: Exposing the Great Myth of Britannia By Miles Russell and Stuart Laycock (2011)

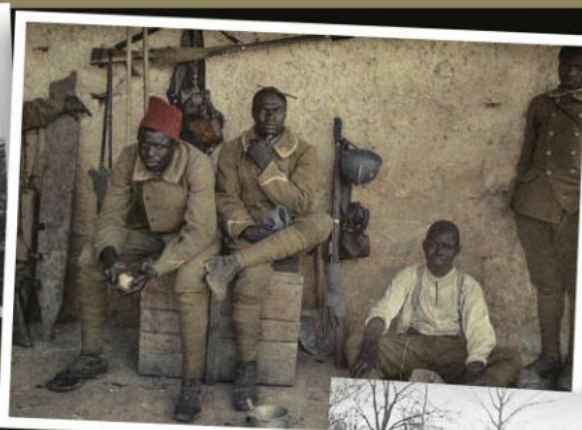
Far from arriving in Britain and sweeping away the old Celtic ways, this account argues that the Romans actually struggled to master the nation's people. Thought-provoking stuff.



VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



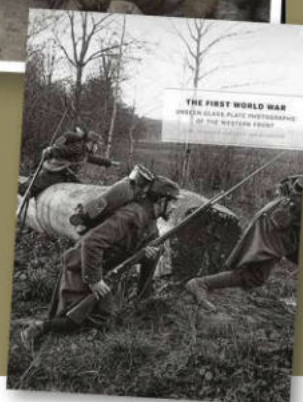
Even after 100 years, images of World War I continue to shock and move



The First World War: Unseen Glass Plate Photographs of the Western Front

By Carl de Keyzer and David van Reybrouck
University of Chicago Press, £45.50, 280 pages, hardback

"Can the First World War still disturb us?", the preface to this collection of rare plate-glass photos enquires. On this evidence, yes. It may be expensive, but the book's uncluttered layout and startling images bring home the horrors of the war.



An inspiring gift for children

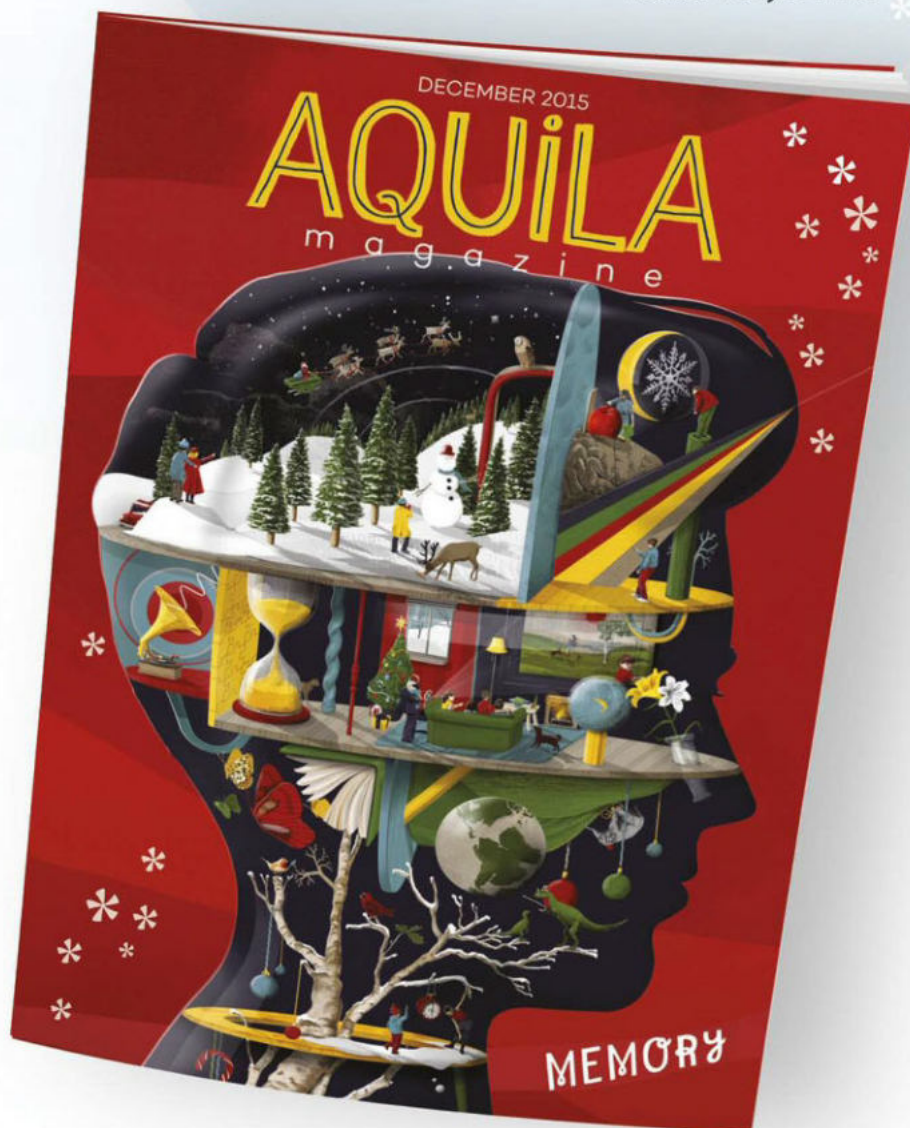
"...it's like having 12 birthdays a year!"

Reader Polly Dunne

AQUILA MAGAZINE is highly recommended for lively young readers of 8 – 12 years: its exciting educational topics will inspire children to ask questions about the world and how things work. **AQUILA's** pages are beautifully illustrated with photographs and diagrams – you never know, it might even entice children away from their latest gadgets and computer games!

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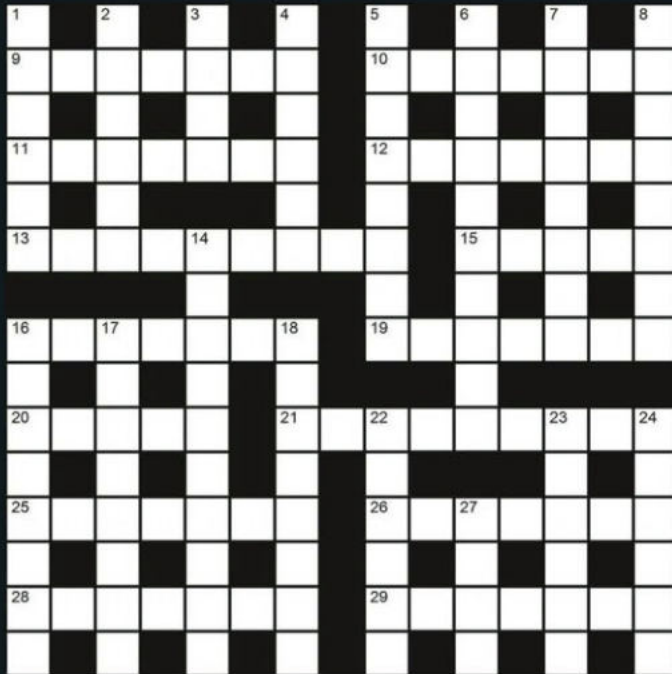
Post back to: **AQUILA, 67A Willowfield Road, Eastbourne, BN22 8AP, UK.**

BHR 16

CROSSWORD N° 22

If you think you know your history, put your knowledge to the test and you could win a prize

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 9** Marriage ____, a series of paintings from 1743-45, by William Hogarth (1,2,4)
10 Native American tribe that historically lived on the plains of Colorado and Wyoming (7)
11 Robert ____ (1676-1745), considered to be Great Britain's first Prime Minister (7)
12 Northumberland market town, site of England's second largest inhabited castle (7)
13 In Greek myth, a hunter who fell in love with his reflection in a river (9)
15/4 The treasures that, in 1671, Colonel Thomas Blood sought to steal (5,6)
16 Indian city, a centre of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 (7)

- 19** British ____, major airline founded in 1974 (7)
20 '____ of the Nine Hostages', legendary fourth- or fifth-century ruler of Ireland (5)
21 A Mark Twain character and Huckleberry Finn's friend (3,6)
25 Hugh ____, English bishop during the Reformation, burned at the stake in 1555 (7)
26 Eastern European country ruled by Nicolae Ceaușescu from 1965 to 1989 (7)
28 Title character in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant Of Venice* (7)
29 Name by which the Crete-born painter Doménikos Theotokópoulos (1541-1614) was widely known (2,5)

DOWN

- 1** Charles ____ (1809-82), English naturalist, author of *On The Origin Of Species* (6)
2 Gustav ____ (1860-1911), Austrian composer, known for his ten symphonies (6)
3 London district, famous for its bohemian atmosphere (4)
4 See 15 Across
5 Southeast Asian country, subject of the British Empire until independence in 1957 (8)
6 Historic charter signed at Runnymede in 1215 (5,5)
7 Canadian province, admitted to the confederation in 1870 following a rebellion (8)
8 1968 album by American folk duo Simon & Garfunkel (8)
14 English author (1908-64) who created the superspy James Bond (3,7)
16 The seat of the Marquesses of Bath and a stately home with its own safari park (8)
17 "Then she rode forth, clothed on with ____" - from the 1842 poem *Godiva* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (8)
18 Major European land battle on 18 June 1815 (8)
22 *Dial M For ____*, Alfred Hitchcock film (1954) (6)
23 ____ *Doodle*, jovial rhyming song from the 18th century, popularised in the American Revolutionary War (6)
24 *Critique of Pure ____*, influential 1781 work by philosopher Immanuel Kant (6)
27 Term for the three kings who, in the New Testament, visited the infant Jesus (4)

CHANCE TO WIN...

The Second World War on the Home Front

by Juliet Gardiner
From the Home Guard to the Land Girls, this visual treasure trove, packed with over 200 illustrations and documents, explores how people lived and worked during World War II. Published by Andre Deutsch, £30



BOOK WORTH £30! FOR THREE WINNERS

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, November 2015 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **november2015@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **11 November 2015**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION N° 20



CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediacompany.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited

A-Z of History

Kindly king **Nige Tassell** kicks back and kills time with his kaleidoscopic collection of 24-karat historical keepers

.....

The clerk of Kenya

Before he became the 'founding father' and first President of the Republic of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was employed as a water-meter reader. In the thirties, he also found work as a film extra, most notably playing a tribal chief in the 1935 movie *Sanders of the River*, starring Paul Robeson.

THE KING IS DEAD!

When the Magna Carta-sealing King John of England succumbed to a fatal dose of dysentery in 1216, rumours abounded about the actual cause of his demise. Theories ranged from being poisoned by religious opponents with the toxin of a toad to having ingested "a surfeit of peaches".

KELLER KEEPS TO THE LEFT

As well as being an extraordinary writer and lecturer (despite being deaf and blind), Helen Keller was also a fully paid-up member of both the American Socialist Party and the Industrial Workers of the World. The previously sympathetic editor of *The Brooklyn Eagle* saw these affiliations as a consequence of her disabilities, claiming "her mistakes sprung out of the manifest limitations of her development".



NOT ON YOUR KNIFE

Everyone's favourite multi-use tool, the Swiss Army Knife, could actually claim to be German. In the late 1880s, the Swiss Army commissioned a folding penknife for its troops, but no homeland manufacturer could handle a 15,000-unit order, so they had to be made across the border in the German town of Solingen, known as the 'city of blades'.

THE KENNEDY CURSE

For many decades, it's been believed that the Kennedys, arguably the closest the United States has to a royal dynasty, is cursed, with a disproportionately high number of family members dying prematurely. Among these – and aside from the two world-shocking assassinations of JFK and his brother Bobby – the Kennedys have been involved in no fewer than four fatal plane crashes.

KARL LEAVES HIS MARX

The political theorist Karl Marx had seven children with his wife, with all four daughters taking their mother's name – Jenny. In order to distinguish one from the other, Marx adopted imaginative nicknames for each daughter. The eldest Jenny was referred to as Qui Qui, Emperor of China.

Climb one on K2

The first British attempt to climb K2, the second highest peak on Earth in the Karakoram Mountains on the China-Pakistan border, was in 1902. The ultimately doomed expedition was co-led by the notorious future occultist Aleister Crowley.

KIT KAT AND CHIPS

Launched in 1935, the Kit Kat has long been among the UK's most beloved chocolate bars. But had you asked for a 'Kit Kat' back in the 18th century, you'd have been served a mutton pie instead. The pastry-encased delight got its name from being the signature dish at London's Kit-Cat Club.

KKK at the ball game

The shadowy, violent, white-supremacist organisation, the Ku Klux Klan, wasn't always a secretive one. During the early 20th century, it was visible in everyday life as a mainstream body. Indeed, in 1925, a KKK baseball team even played a match against the 'Monroviens', an African-American side from Kansas.

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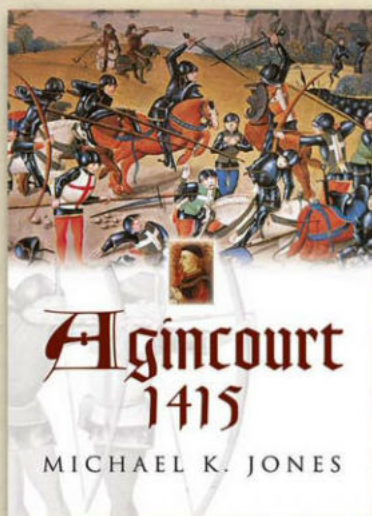
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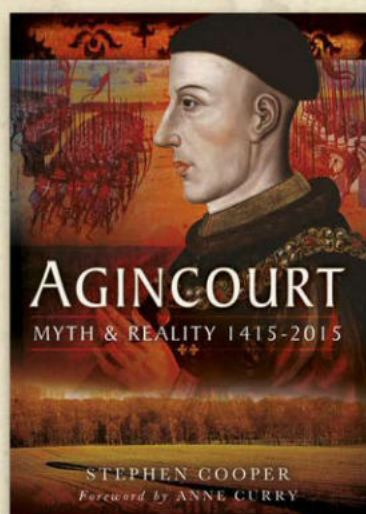
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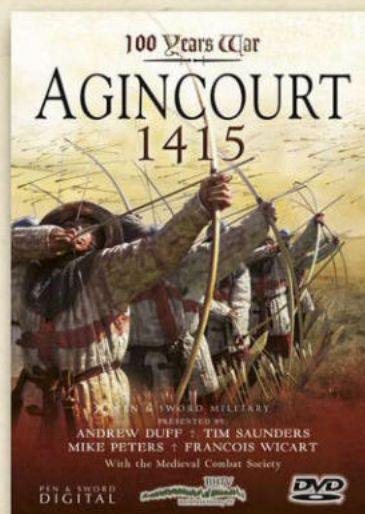
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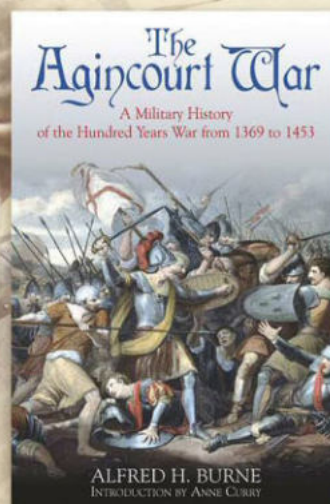
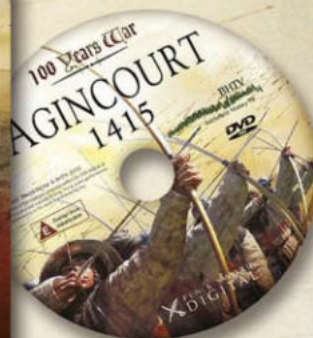
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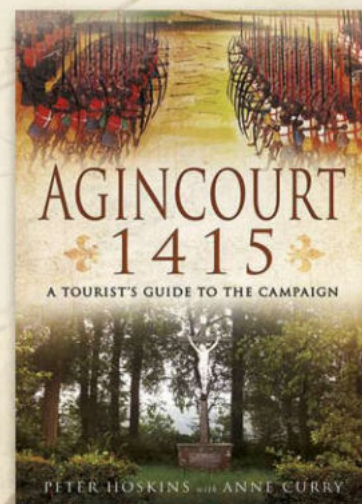
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